

See what stakeholders are saying about the Midwestern Governors Association's jobs and energy initiatives:

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"I participated since I was asked by Governor Culver's office to help represent Iowa on this MGA Committee. I had been working as President of Iowa Lakes Community College and was very involved in the rapidly growing Wind Energy Training Program there. I was also President of the Iowa Wind Energy Association which I and others at Iowa Lakes plus individuals and companies involved in the wind industry had created in January of 2008. The most valuable outcome for me was learning the commitment that all the Midwestern Governors have made to support the development of renewable energy here in the Midwest. It was clear that our governors are clearly committed to renewable energy, job creation in support of this industry and the economic development benefits that accrue due to our nation becoming more energy self-sufficient. It was a distinct honor to be able to participate in such an endeavor,"  
**Harold Prior, Iowa Wind Energy Association**

"As an industry leader in energy efficiency and reinforcement materials for renewable wind power, Owens Corning was pleased to participate in the MGA's Jobs and Energy Initiatives. Through our active participation, we were keen to assure that a balance was struck between attracting and encouraging new businesses and supporting existing businesses that have an opportunity to expand their energy and employment impact in the region. We were pleased with the results of this process, and in particular, Governor Strickland's engagement in our perspective," **Frank O'Brien-Bernini, Owens Corning**

"We need to work together to understand the nature of the new energy economy, and to make sure we have the skilled workforce to move the economy forward. Sitting around the table with educational leaders from the Midwest, as well as with labor and business leaders, provided a unique perspective on regional opportunities. The MGA process allowed us to come together and focus not just on new workers, but reinforce incumbent workforce training and getting them the additional skills they need,"  
**Mike Lanser, Lakeshore Technical College**

"The MGA process covered a lot of ground, and it went well. Participants recognized the importance of what we had been asked to do, and we were committed to outlining options for a path forward that will best serve the interests of the Midwest. For me, the most valuable outcome was being able to place our perspective and our priorities into the context of a full range of regional interests and options," **Harvey Thorleifson, State Geologist of Minnesota**

"The Midwest Governors' Creating Jobs in the New Energy Economy Initiative has been a great opportunity to develop a strategic alliance comprised of workforce developers, economic developers, educators, and governmental representatives across the region with a common goal of capitalizing on the job opportunities the green economy brings. The Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth has benefited significantly by participating in a forum designed to share and compare best practices and policy options, as well as aligning and leveraging resources available to support energy economy investments. With a platform for creating and retaining jobs in hand, Midwest states are now better positioned for a sustainable positive economic outlook."  
**Marcia S. Black-Watson, Michigan Department of Energy Labor & Economic Growth**

"As the regional energy efficiency group in the Midwest, we recognized the tremendous impact that the region has on energy production and consumption. By bringing all the states together and all the relevant stakeholders, the Governors created a process for true communication and debate which led to achievable policies and programs to benefit the Midwest – increasing job opportunities and decreasing energy usage. As a membership organization that includes all the energy efficiency stakeholders, MEEA knows the value of having all relevant stakeholders at the table. To effect positive change, it is essential that we find the common ground and solid agreement with all organizations to enact new policies and develop new programs. The MGA process worked as a bipartisan coalition which recognized the importance of strong energy policies and the positive impact on state and regional economies."  
**Stacey Paradis, Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance**

"Working regionally on issues such as energy efficiency and smart grid is extremely valuable to really address decreasing energy usage. The diverse group that the Midwestern Governors Association brought together was extremely valuable in incorporating our mutual industry goals. The work that was put out by the MGA and its stakeholder process will be vitally important as the region and nation look to its energy future and being more energy efficient." **Phyllis Reha, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission**

"POET became involved with the Midwestern Governors Association's stakeholder process because we wanted to be sure Midwestern interests, particularly ethanol and agriculture, were represented in a very significant way. What has been particularly valuable to me during the process was the group's willingness to listen to our perspective and take it into account as MGA developed its initiatives. POET's involvement in the MGA process has been valuable to us, and the recommendations and policies produced by the process will be valuable to the Midwest and the USA as a whole." **Doug Berven, POET**

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**For more information on the Midwestern Governors Association, or its views, policies and issues, please visit:  
[www.midwesterngovernors.org](http://www.midwesterngovernors.org)**