



HYDRO WORKS FOR AMERICA

Converting America's Non-Powered Dams

Tapping Our Unrealized Energy Resources

Converting America's thousands of non-powered dams to produce electricity represents an unmatched opportunity to tap an unused, affordable, domestic and clean energy resource.



Leading U.S. Renewable Resource

Hydropower is America's largest clean, renewable energy resource, accounting for 67 percent of domestic renewable generation and 7 percent of our electricity generation. America's hydropower industry has a goal to double that capacity, providing even more climate-friendly electricity for the 21st century.

New Policies Will Spur Development

The right policies are needed to spur the investment to convert America's existing non-powered dams to electricity-producing resources. A strong national Renewable Electricity Standard, extended and expanded tax credits, and improvements to the licensing and permitting process are needed. Taking years to complete, expediting the process will help developers attract financing, putting hydro on equal footing with other renewable and clean energy resources in the marketplace for investment.

Leveraging Our Untapped Resources

Only 3 percent of the nation's 80,000 dams currently generate electricity. As we move to a clean energy economy, leaving resources like these untapped is an opportunity that can't be passed up. By installing electricity generation equipment at these currently non-powered dams, America's hydropower industry can tap the waters already flowing through this existing infrastructure. Converting these dams expands our supply of domestic, renewable energy, while safeguarding the current state of our watersheds.

Converting Dams Creates Jobs

Developing these untapped hydropower resources would generate hundreds of thousands of good paying jobs that cannot be outsourced. A 2009 Navigant study indicates that installing 60,000 MW would result in 1.4 million cumulative jobs by 2025. 10,000 of those megawatts will come from converting non-powered dams, creating jobs across the country. The remaining potential will come from pumped storage, ocean, tidal and new damless technologies, and modernizing existing hydro facilities.

Only 3% of the nation's 80,000 dams generate electricity. Converting existing non-powered dams is key to doubling hydropower and creating 1.4 million cumulative jobs in the next 15 years.