

## Major Initiative Will Move Montana Toward a Clean and Healthy Green Economy

**MTCARES and Initiative I-180:** MTCARES (Montana Community Affordable Renewable Energy Saves) announces that Initiative I-180, promoting renewable energy development and justice for fossil fuel workers, has been certified by the Montana Attorney General and Secretary of State for signature gathering.

MTCARES is a Montana non-profit, grassroots organization seeking signatures supporting a 2016 ballot measure, Initiative I-180:

- 1) requiring investor-owned utilities to gradually supply 50% of their electricity from renewable energy by 2030, 80% by 2050 and
- 2) providing retraining, enhanced unemployment benefits, and pension support for fossil fuel workers displaced by the transition to clean energy.

Details on the ballot measure and vital information on climate change can be found at <https://www.mtcares.org/explanation-of-initiative/>

**Climate Change:** The world's climate scientists agree almost unanimously that global warming is real and is causing significant and harmful changes to the Earth's climate. In Montana, global warming has already harmed our forests, streams and agriculture. Without a change of course, Montana's environment and economy will continue to suffer in the future.

**A Green Future:** But there is an alternative. By replacing polluting and global-warming fossil fuels with renewable green energy we can promote a cleaner environment, help protect our natural resources and the economy that depends on them, and stimulate a job-producing green energy boom. Contracts for electricity from wind and solar power are now being signed for less than coal-generated electricity. It's time for Montana to join other states and countries around the world that are embracing renewable energy and its environmental and economic benefits.

As the University of Montana's Professor Steve Running, a member of the Nobel Peace Prize winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, puts it, "'We've got to get past all the petty bickering and get to work. This is about a big transition for society over the next 50 years. The path we are on is unsustainable.'"

**Signature Drive:** MTCARES will be leading a drive to get 25,000 signatures statewide supporting I-180 by June 17. A successful signature campaign will put I-180 on the fall ballot to be approved by a majority of voters. John Hoffland, MTCARES Signature Gathering Coordinator, has found that "once people realize that there is a real opportunity to change the course we're on, they're excited to get the signatures needed to put the initiative to the vote." People wanting to be signature gatherers can go to the MTCARES website at [www.mtcares.org](http://www.mtcares.org) or contact John Hoffland at 406-475-0079 or [gather@mtcares.org](mailto:gather@mtcares.org).

**\*Please contact Russ Doty at 406-696-2842 to request a speaker or learn more about I-180.**