



Obama: “We Need to Invest in the Skills and Education of Our People”

National Wildlife Federation Urges President To Boost Environmental Education And Clean Energy Job Training

WASHINGTON (January 28, 2010)—In his first State of the Union Address, President Obama last night said, “...the nation that leads the clean energy economy will be the nation that leads the global economy. And America must be that nation.”

Critical to meeting this goal is dedication to our country’s environmental education and clean energy jobs training programs that will prepare citizens and the workforce through curricula, training, and programming that incorporates clean energy and sustainability.

Patrick Fitzgerald, Director of Education Advocacy at NWF, said today:

“We applaud President Obama for highlighting the critical role of education in his State of the Union Address. National Wildlife Federation agrees that we all must help forge a more hopeful future for Americans, and we stand ready to make environmental education and clean energy job training a priority to ensure we meet the president’s goals to lead the global economy.

“Only four percent of 9th graders in the United States today end up graduating with college degrees in math, science, and technology. Environmental education naturally attracts students to these leadership fields and helps ensure America’s competitiveness in a global economy.

“The administration’s goal to strengthen our education infrastructure can help put America on track to having the highest college graduation rate of any nation in the world. The proposed growth of education programs provides a tremendous opportunity to invest in our country’s economic recovery through training for clean energy jobs, especially at community colleges. National Wildlife Federation supports greening America’s community college system through legislation, funding, partnerships, and model programming.

“The clean energy economy will lead to the creation of new jobs, and offers pathways out of poverty for many people to finish high school and attend community college to learn emerging, well-paid trades.”

National Wildlife Federation is America's largest conservation organization inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future.

Through its Campus Ecology Program, the Federation has a 20-year history of work in improving the quality of American higher education with respect to environmental sustainability. More recently, NWF has joined forces with the American Association of Community Colleges and such training organizations as Jobs for the Future to advance green job training at America’s community colleges. Visit www.nwf.org for more information.

Policy contact: Patrick Fitzgerald at fitzgeraldp@nwf.org or 202-870-0824

Media contact: Amanda Cooke at cookea@nwf.org or 703-438-6041

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