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### **Reducing Wisconsin's energy deficit critical to economic success**

*Increasing in-state energy production the key to unlocking health, economic, & financial benefits*

**[MADISON, WI]** The state of Wisconsin currently has one of the biggest energy production deficits of any state in the nation; \$14.4 billion left the state in 2016 to pay for imported energy. A new report by COWS, based at UW-Madison, finds that transitioning to in-state energy resources like wind, solar, and energy efficiency would bring these dollars and jobs back to the state of Wisconsin.

A first step is for the state to transition to an electric economy, which would result in a significant reduction in overall energy consumption due to the relative efficiency of in-state resources and electric equipment for things like vehicles and heating. An electric economy would enable the state to supply all its energy from in-state resources and eliminate its reliance on imports.

The results would be dramatic and overwhelmingly positive on several fronts:

- an estimated 162,100 net jobs created
- an increase in the state GDP by \$13.9 billion
- and a slew of health benefits including an avoided 148,000 work loss days
- 34,400 asthma exacerbations resulting from a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions and air pollution exposure

The report estimates that for every MWh transitioned to in-state energy, the emissions benefits would total \$154 and generate an additional \$3.40 in tax revenue.

The win-win-win benefits of transitioning to in-state sources of energy for Wisconsin's economy, public health, and environment strongly support the implementation of policy to help drive this transition. Wisconsin now faces a major opportunity to begin harnessing these benefits of in-state energy production as described in this report.

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#### **About COWS**

Based at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, COWS is a national think-and-do tank that promotes "high road" solutions to social problems. These treat shared growth and opportunity, environmental sustainability, and resilient democratic institutions as necessary and achievable complements in human development. COWS is nonpartisan but values-based. We seek a world of equal opportunity and security for all.