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**MEDIA CONTACTS:** Patrick Mitchell, 703-276-3266, [pmitchell@hastingsgroup.com](mailto:pmitchell@hastingsgroup.com), or Jeff Benzak, 202-513-6248, [jbenzak@e2.org](mailto:jbenzak@e2.org).

## E2 Report: Virginia No. 7 in Clean Energy Job Announcements in First Quarter

*Wind, Solar Manufacturing Drive Growth in Commonwealth; Clean Power Plan Expected to Send Strong Market Signal to Private Sector, Create More Jobs; Georgia Tops National List*

ALEXANDRIA (June 30, 2015) – As Virginia waits for the federal Clean Power Plan carbon standards to be finalized later this summer, a new report from the national nonpartisan business group Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2) shows that the Commonwealth ranked No. 7 in the nation in clean energy and clean transportation job announcements in the first three months of 2015.

This was the first time Virginia has cracked the top 10 since E2 began its job tracking analysis in 2011.

The report tracked three projects across Virginia expected to create 325 jobs – one in Greensville County in the far southern portion of the state, one in Augusta County in the Shenandoah Valley, and one in Accomack County on the Delmarva Peninsula. Most of these were manufacturing jobs in the wind and solar sectors, underscoring the clean tech sector’s status as the most vibrant growth area in the state’s energy industry.

The complete report is available [here](#). For more information on clean energy in Virginia – including stories showcasing specific clean energy projects across the state – see [www.CleanEnergyWorksForUs.org/Virginia](http://www.CleanEnergyWorksForUs.org/Virginia).

**“Clean energy companies clearly want to build projects in Virginia because of our educated workforce and our encouraging business environment,”** said Tim Bagley, president and CEO of BEST Energy and founder of the Alexandria Emerging Technology Center, a business incubator. **“But right now competition among Southern and Mid-Atlantic states is fierce, and Virginia is only beginning to catch up.”**

**“If we want to create more clean energy jobs, reduce carbon pollution, and give our economy a big boost, the Clean Power Plan is the single-greatest opportunity for us to do so. Once we demonstrate serious support for the clean energy economy, Virginia’s already strong business environment will be even more attractive to some of the most innovative, fastest-growing industries in the private sector.”**

By setting the first-ever carbon pollution limits on our nation's power plants, the Clean Power Plan is expected to send a strong, clear market signal to the private sector which will result in further clean energy job growth, the report concludes. Future clean energy job growth could also be fueled by states that choose to enact or strengthen Renewable Portfolio Standards and energy efficiency goals.

Nationwide, more than 9,800 jobs were announced in Q1 – almost double the number from the corresponding quarter a year ago, when 5,600 jobs were announced. The top sector nationally was solar generation.

While Virginia is new to E2's top 10 list, its neighbors to the north and south have made frequent appearances. Thanks to a booming solar sector, North Carolina has cracked the top 10 six times, while Maryland, which has a strong state-level renewable standard, has made the list four times including Q1 2015. Another southern state – Georgia – ranked first nationally this quarter, primarily due to growth in solar.

**“When it comes to Virginia’s clean energy future, the Commonwealth can not only catch up with its neighbors and the rest of the South, but it can become a national clean energy leader as well,”** said E2 executive director Bob Keefe, an Alexandria resident. **“The Clean Power Plan is Virginia’s best shot at finally doing so.”**

For results of an E2 poll of small business owners in Virginia on economic issues, [see here](#). For an op-ed penned by E2's executive director Bob Keefe on clean energy in Virginia, [see here](#). For an op-ed on clean energy jobs for Virginia veterans penned by E2 members in the Commonwealth, [see here](#).

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*Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2) is a nonpartisan, national community of business leaders who promote sound environmental policies that grow the economy. We are entrepreneurs, investors, and professionals from every sector of the economy who collectively have been involved in the financing, founding or development of more than 1,700 companies that have created more than 570,000 jobs. Our members manage billions of dollars in venture and private equity capital that will flow over the next several years into new companies. For more information, see [www.e2.org](http://www.e2.org).*