

# Clean System Could Counteract Post-COVID Economy

“Plummeting wind, solar, and storage prices have fallen so fast that the United States can reach 90 percent clean electricity by 2035—without raising customer costs at all from today’s levels, and actually decreasing wholesale power costs 10 percent. Building a 90 percent clean electricity system by 2035 would catalyze massive economic growth that helps pull the U.S. out of the COVID-19 recession by supporting more than a half million new net jobs per year, injecting \$1.7 trillion into the economy, and recharging domestic manufacturing.”<sup>1</sup>

The quotes above come from an article in Forbes magazine, the last bastion of capitalism, reporting on a recently released Goldman School of Public Policy study. Diving into the link of the report itself, <https://www.2035report.com/data-explorer/>, the authors have conjectured how exactly each state can achieve 90 percent by 2035; for Idaho, 46 percent of Idaho energy mix would be coming from utility-scale solar farms, 9 percent from wind farms, 35 percent hydro, and 9 percent natural gas.

Idaho is uniquely suited to add wind and solar farms, as it has an abundance of those resources occurring naturally and it has an incredible amount of public lands on which to build them, with 62.8 percent of its land public lands. Another report details the multiplier effect on an economy of developing renewables, “The best available data show that rent and royalty payments from renewable energy development on public lands have contributed over \$660 million in 2019 dollars to federal, state and local governments since 1982. This report concludes that the capital costs for construction of the renewable energy projects operating on public lands have contributed over \$13 billion in 2019 dollars to the economy since 1996. Estimates show that these projects have created over 12,000 construction jobs and over 1,700 operations and maintenance jobs.”<sup>2</sup>

Forbes author Silvo Marcacci also notes the job-creating aspect of developing renewable energy, “Adding all this clean energy would support approximately 9 million new net job-years in the energy sector through 2035, totaling 530,000 more jobs per year compared to business-as-usual, in every corner of the country. Clean energy jobs offer higher wages than the average economy, can’t be outsourced, and are widely available to workers without college degrees, opening up economic opportunity for all Americans.”

What’s not to like? Getting to 90 percent by 2035 would mean cheaper power for consumers, jobs for American workers, tax revenue to state and local governments, and economic recovery. Not only can Idaho’s governor seize this opportunity, but our local government bodies should, too. If you need one more piece of information to cap the case, here’s one more quote from the Forbes article: “90% clean electricity would create massive public health benefits alongside this sustained economic growth and prevent 85,000 premature deaths from power plant emissions by 2050. Emissions would be virtually eliminated from the U.S. power sector: CO2 emissions would be reduced 1,300 million metric tons (88%) by 2035, while nitrogen oxide emissions would fall 96% and sulfur dioxide emissions would be cut 99%.”<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.forbes.com/sites/energyinnovation/2020/06/09/plunging-renewable-energy-prices-mean-us-can-hit-90-clean-electricity-by-2035at-no-extra-cost/#562a21fc2f9b>

<sup>2</sup> <https://cbey.yale.edu/key-economic-benefits-of-renewable-energy-on-public-lands>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.forbes.com/sites/energyinnovation/2020/06/09/plunging-renewable-energy-prices-mean-us-can-hit-90-clean-electricity-by-2035at-no-extra-cost/#562a21fc2f9b>



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# ADVERTORIALS

## Medicaid Cares!

OUR VOICE COUNTS

NUESTRA VOZ CUENTA

Medicaid is an important tool for our LatinX and immigrant families here in Idaho. With policies such as the Public Charge and health concerns like COVID-19, it is now more important than ever that we are all receiving the correct information to protect our families. This is why Centro de Comunidad y Justicia in Boise continues to be open and available for our diverse communities of Idaho.

During three listening sessions conducted in Boise, Caldwell, and Hailey, we were given the chance to hear what our communities had to say about Medicaid.

Participants reported that Medicaid helps keep their families healthy by enabling them to seek the care they need when they need it without the fear and stress of major hospital bills.

*“Without Medicaid, you would need to sacrifice the little bit that you earn [to pay the medical bills]. I would have to work extra hours, I would need to pay childcare, and the family loses balance.” (community member)*



Enrique Munoz

During these uncertain times, when healthcare is so crucial to keep families healthy, it is important that our communities consult with an immigration lawyer to understand what impact, if any, Public Charge has on their immigration status if their families or children are on Medicaid.

Herbert Romero, director of PROJECT.O.O.L.S & PARTNERS, from Hailey, says, “There is an eagerness here for clear information. Many of our people here want to know more about their family’s future regarding healthcare.”

Centro de Comunidad y Justicia is here for you as a reliable and second opinion if your family is enrolled in Medicaid or wants to enroll. You can contact our office directly at (208) 378-1368, Facebook page Centro de Comunidad y Justicia, or our website <https://comunidadyjusticiaidaho.org/> to set up a consultation today.

Medicaid es un recurso muy importante para nuestras familias LatinX y inmigrante aquí en Idaho. Por políticas como la Carga Pública y preocupaciones de salud que viene con COVID-19 es importante mas que nunca que estamos recibiendo la información correcta para proteger nuestras familias. Por eso Centro De Comunidad y Justicia continúa ser abierto y disponible a nuestras comunidades diversas en Idaho.

Durante tres sesiones de escucha que tuvimos en Boise, Caldwell, y Hailey, las comunidades nos proveyeron la oportunidad de escuchar de lo que pensaban de Medicaid.

Participantes reportaron que Medicaid ayuda a mantener a sus hijos saludables al habilitarlos a buscar el cuidado que sus niños necesitan cuando lo necesitan – sin el temor y el estrés de gastos médicos mayores.

*“Sin Medicaid, necesitaría sacrificar lo poquito que uno gana [para pagar las cuentas médicas]. Tendría que trabajar horas extras, tendría que pagar cuidado infantil/guardería, y la familia pierde balance.” (miembro de la comunidad)*

Durante estos tiempos inciertos cuando el seguro de salud es tan crucial para nuestras familias es importante que se consulte a un abogado de inmigración para entender que impacto tiene la Carga Pública, si es que hay alguno, en su estado migratorio si usted o su hijo están en Medicaid.

Herbert Romero, el director de PROJECT.O.O.L.S & PARTNERS de Hailey, dice, “Hay ganas aquí para recibir información claro. Mucha de nuestra gente aquí quiere saber mas del futuro de su familia en términos de la salud medical.”

Centro De Comunidad y Justicia esta aquí para ofrecer una segunda opinion de la fuente mas confiable si tu familia esta en Medicaid o si quieren enrolarse. Contáctenos hoy en nuestra oficina al (208) 378-1368, página de Facebook Centro de Comunidad y Justicia, o sitio de red <https://comunidadyjusticiaidaho.org/>.

## TOADFLAX: DON’T LET THOSE BEAUTIFUL BLOSSOMS FOOL YOU

BY BLAINE BUG CREW

Now that school is out, the Blaine Bug Crew is back in the field. One of the earliest noxious weeds we work with is Dalmatian toadflax. This weed sprouts shortly after the snow leaves. The cold nights of spring don’t seem to hold it back at all. This noxious predator is one of the most beautiful plants in Idaho but, boy, is it invasive. People have even picked it as a wildflower along trails, not realizing the noxious potential of this yellow beauty. Once you get to know more about this plant, you will respect its not-so-charming personality.

Dalmatian toadflax is a perennial that grows up to 4 feet tall. Its waxy green leaves are heart-shaped, 1 to 3 inches long, and clasp the stem. Flowers are 1 inch long (excluding the 1/2-inch spur), yellow, often tinged with orange or red, and similar in shape to a snapdragon. Plants flower from midsummer to fall. Seeds are produced in a 1/2-inch pod and are irregularly wing-angled. A single plant may produce up to 500,000 seeds in a season, which may remain viable in the soil for up to 10 years! This plant also reproduces vegetatively by stems that develop from adventitious buds on primary and creeping lateral roots. It is usually associated with sparsely vegetated areas, such as roadsides, gravel pits, and disturbed pastures. This invasive plant is

reportedly toxic to livestock. Luckily, the Bug Crew has a natural insect predator we use to keep this noxious weed at bay.

Adult Mecinus janiformus (MEJA) are small, somewhat elongated bluish-black weevils that emerge from last year’s infested Dalmatian toadflax stems in April-May. Adult MEJA feed on toadflax stems that are at least 0.04 inches in diameter and feed on leaves and stems from June to mid-July before mating and laying eggs inside new shoots. The eggs typically hatch in 6-7 days. Larvae tunnel within the toadflax stem for 23-34 days, moving no more than 1.2 inches from where the egg was laid. Pupation occurs within the stem. Adult feeding on stems and leaves has a limited impact on the plant. Larval mining impacts the plants by causing premature wilting of shoots and suppressing flower formation. MEJA overwinter as adults inside their pupation chamber. The effects of the weevil on the plant are reportedly enhanced under drought stress.

If you have or know of an infestation of this weed, please call Kay Draper at the Blaine County Weed Department at (208) 788-5543. We are looking to establish new weed control sites that are free from tilling, grazing, spraying, or any other disturbance to allow our bugs to naturally and sustainably get this weed under control.

