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Governor



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*Greetings from the Governor*  
October 18 – 19, 2011

Welcome to the 2011 Washington State Energy Summit - Future Energy Conference!

Energy has been key to Washington State's economic competitiveness, and innovation in the energy arena will be vital not only for maintaining our competitive edge, but also for our economic recovery in these difficult times.

This conference brings together our best minds to discuss energy options and opportunities. These conversations will help Washington State position itself as a global leader in the transition to cleaner, more efficient, renewable and distributed energy use. This transition will challenge our current framework for managing energy, but we have much to build on: great universities, smart entrepreneurs, world class industries, and amazing hydroelectric power and transmission systems.

Our new Washington State Energy Strategy has analyzed our energy needs and resources out to 2035 to guide us in investing in the right strategies now in order to create reliable, clean and low-cost energy in the future. Wind, solar, hydroelectric, bioenergy and biofuels, electric vehicles, efficiency in buildings and industry, smart grid, storage and technologies that are still on the drawing board must all come together to secure our energy future.

The Strategy will give us a blueprint and guidance for policy, but we all know it will take action, investment and leadership to make things happen. The future is not without risks, but it also includes opportunities for researchers, designers, manufacturers, installers, consultants, utilities and property owners who make it their everyday business to deploy renewable energy and energy efficiency in Washington's communities.

I welcome this opportunity to advance the knowledge of the energy industry, explore policy initiatives, build partnerships, and showcase the truly impressive capabilities that our state has to offer.

Sincerely,

Christine O. Gregoire  
Governor