



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY
62ND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
REPRESENTING THE GREATER RACINE COMMUNITY

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The Wisconsin Sustainable Jobs Act

The Wisconsin Sustainable Jobs Act will help create a demand for skilled workers, and develop career pathways for hundreds and potentially thousands of Wisconsin residents to move into family-supporting weatherization jobs.

The bill leverages public and private resources to make Wisconsin's homes and businesses more energy efficient, reduce people's energy costs, and put Wisconsin's residents to work in a skilled trade.

The Wisconsin Sustainable Jobs Act will:

- Create high-quality jobs throughout the state in the burgeoning weatherization industry;
- Allow Wisconsin to make critically important investments in energy conservation;
- Create career pathways for Wisconsin's residents to get the training they need to move into these family-supporting jobs;
- Leverage federal stimulus dollars for residential energy efficiency in a revolving loan model;
- Leverage private capital to enable wide-scale retrofit projects at some of Wisconsin's largest commercial and industrial locations; and
- Reduce Wisconsin's carbon footprint.

This bill expands on a municipality or utility's ability to administer and fund programs that invest in energy efficiency improvements. For years, Wisconsin's great Focus on Energy program has provided Wisconsin's homeowners with valuable information about energy saving measures. Most homeowners, however, lack the funds to invest tens of thousands of dollars into energy efficiency improvements such as new furnaces, water heaters, windows, insulation, etc.



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The Wisconsin Sustainable Jobs Act will allow utilities and municipalities to make loans to homeowners for these energy improvements, and allow the homeowners to repay those loans, over time, via installment on their property tax bills. The bill authorizes energy utilities to capitalize wide-scale energy retrofits at Wisconsin's commercial and industrial businesses. All participation in this program is voluntary.

The legislation also sets high standards for weatherization contractors, to ensure the development of high-quality, family-supporting jobs. Among other things, the legislation requires contractors to comply with prevailing wage requirements; satisfy cultural competency requirements; ensure that a percentage of all of the weatherization work is done by local, unemployed or low-income workers; and participate in apprenticeship programs. These standards will put hundreds and eventually thousands of Wisconsin residents to work in the growing weatherization industry, and ensure that unemployed Wisconsin residents get the training they need to get these high-quality jobs.

Most importantly, the Wisconsin Sustainable Jobs Act is, as its name suggests, *sustainable*. Its revolving loan model and the leveraging of both public and private resources will ensure the long-term growth of this new industry, creating a greener Wisconsin and putting Wisconsin residents to work for years to come in high-quality weatherization jobs.

For more information, contact Representative Mason at (608) 266-0634 or email at Rep.Mason@legis.wi.gov.