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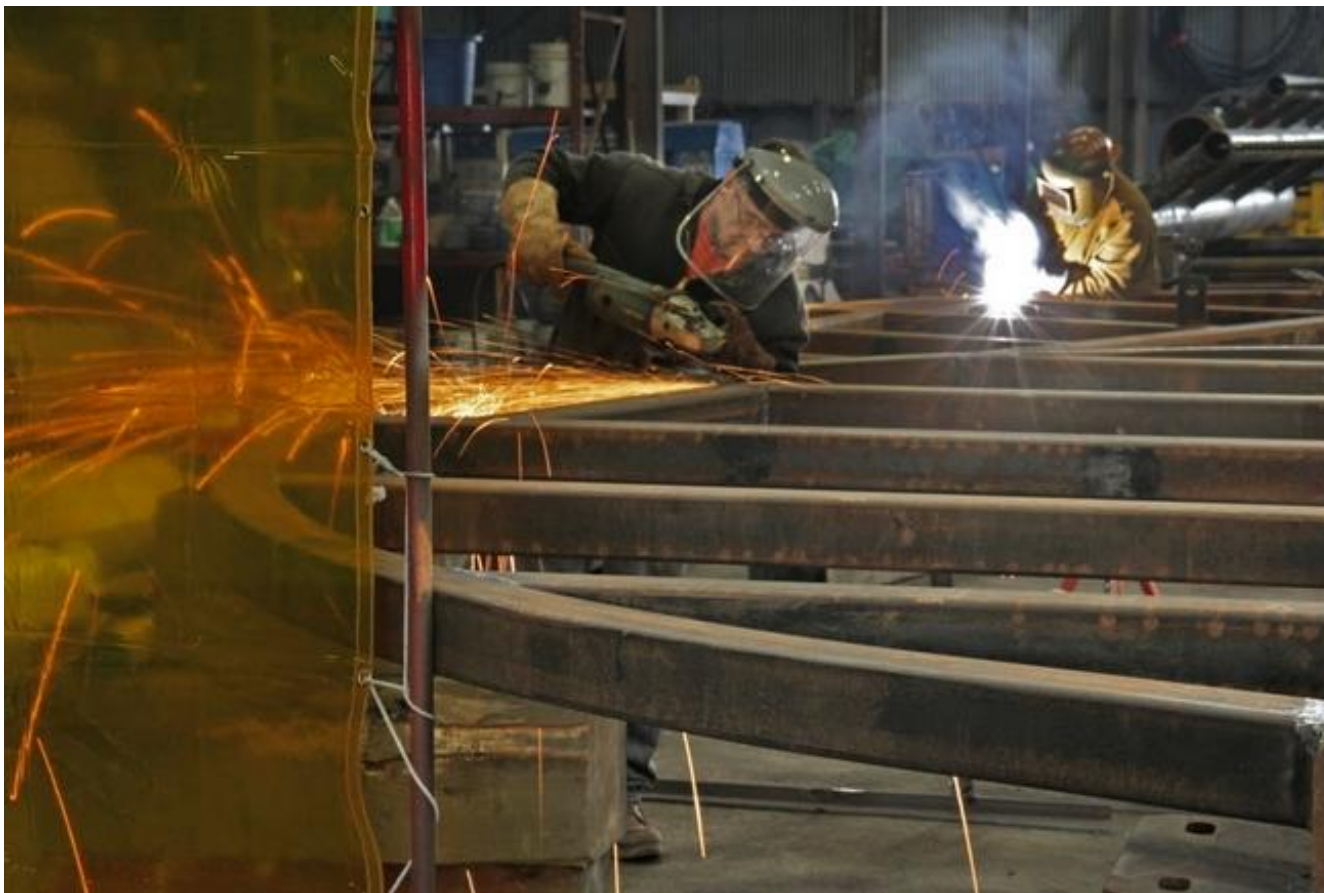
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**By Alex Kuffner**  
**Journal Staff Writer**

Posted Aug. 31, 2015 at 2:22 PM

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The clean energy industry supports nearly 10,000 jobs in Rhode Island, according to a new state report.

The report released on Monday by the state Office of Energy Resources and the Executive Office of Commerce found that the sector added 613 jobs over the last 12 months, bringing the total to 9,832, and projected that another 1,600 positions in energy efficiency, renewable energy and related fields would be created over the next year.



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**RHODE ISLAND DIRECTORY**

The rate of job growth in the industry — 6.6 percent over the past year — easily outpaces the overall rate in Rhode Island of less than 1 percent for the same period, according to the report compiled by BW Research Partnership, a firm with offices in California and Massachusetts. It describes the industry’s growth over the past year as “remarkable” because 40 percent of the companies in the sector only started offering clean energy services in the past five years.

“Our mission is getting people back to work and preparing them for the jobs of the 21st century economy,” Governor Raimondo said in a statement. “Our clean energy economy growth is encouraging and represents a sector on the move.”

The majority of the positions in the industry — about 52.5 percent — are in energy efficiency, which includes retrofitting buildings to better conserve heat and electricity through such measures as installing insulation and replacing lighting. The state has worked aggressively to encourage efficiency work, with its incentive programs ranked third in the nation by the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy.

Another 11 percent of positions are in renewable energy, which includes installing and servicing solar panels, land-based wind turbines and geothermal systems. Such installations also receive state support, through a surcharge on electric ratepayers.

In an email from Newfoundland where she was meeting with other New England and Canadian officials to discuss regional energy issues, Rhode Island energy commissioner Marion Gold pointed out that there are also new temporary jobs in offshore wind power that have been created with the continuing installation of a five-turbine wind farm in waters near Block Island.

She said there’s been a lot of interest during the meeting of New England governors and Eastern Canadian premiers about the Deepwater Wind project, which is set to become the first offshore wind farm in the United States.

“The governor and her team are excited about the opportunities the clean energy sector offers to assist in the continued recovery of the state’s economy while addressing the challenges of climate change,” Gold wrote. “Lots of work ahead but we are on a good trajectory.”

The industry is made up mainly of small businesses, the report says. About 9 in 10 have less than 25 employees and about two-thirds have 5 or fewer workers. Most do business in other industries

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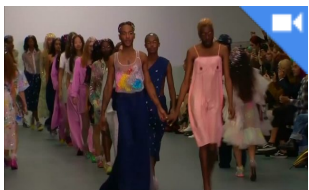
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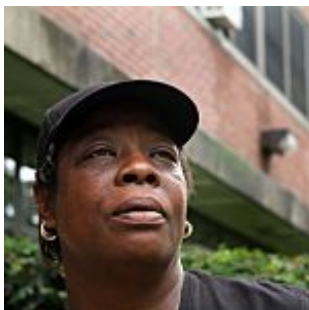


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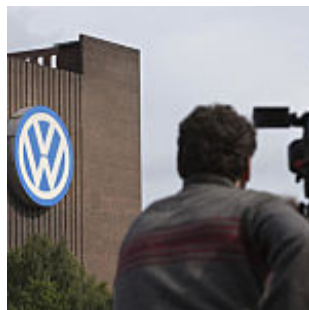


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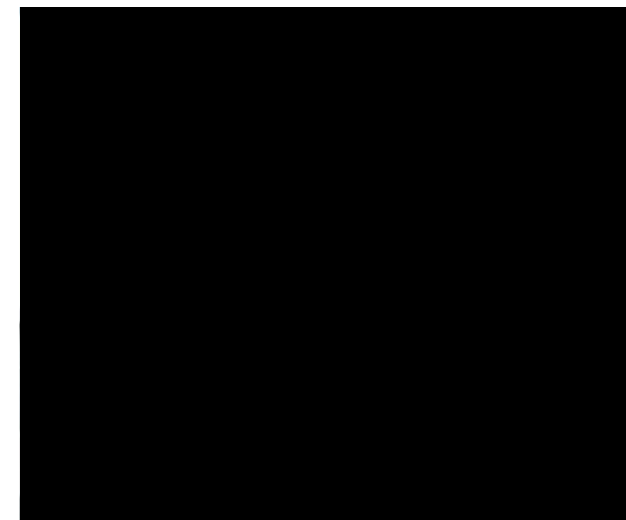
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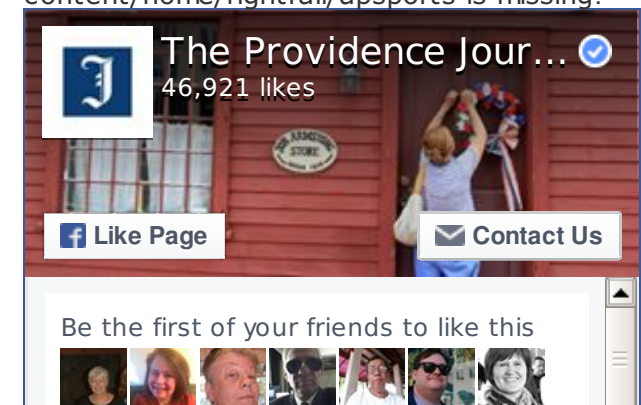
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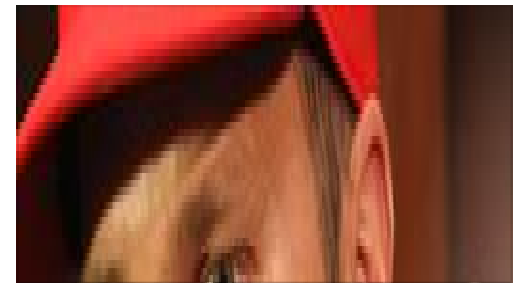




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