

Global warming recommendations could bring in jobs

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North Carolina could net 300,000 more jobs by implementing energy efficiency programs, said a report presented yesterday.

The preliminary report presented to a legislative panel is an attempt to sum up the economic result of more than 30 policy options suggested by an advisory committee established to help lawmakers develop a global warming response plan. If approved, the Climate Action Plan Advisory Group's recommendations would return the state to 1990 levels of greenhouse gas emissions within 13 years. The report found that following the recommendations would create about 328,000 cumulative annual net jobs by 2020 and generate 14.2 billion in cumulative income.

Appalachian State University graduate research assistant David Ponder co-authored the report, and says that's just a small percentage of the 5 million jobs now in North Carolina that generate \$250 billion in income. The figures aren't "earth-shattering," he says.

Many of the new jobs would come from within the agribusiness and waste industries, through such recommendations as producing more ethanol and biodiesel for fuel and trapping gas from animal manure and landfills to generate electricity.