

## **Implications of Global Agreements on Climate Change for Michigan**

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The nearing end of the Kyoto Protocol and newly presented data by the IPCC has prompted discussions about a new global agreement on climate change. The Bali agreement will be met by leading industrial nations, within which, localized efforts to reduce green house gas emissions must be taken. The two year agreement commonly referred to as the Bali Roadmap is intended to come to a final agreement on issues such as emissions reduction, forest protection, and global cooperation in Denmark in 2009. The roadmap will open new doors for sustainable industry around the world. We discuss the necessity of statewide involvement in sustainable growth and the means by which Michigan may adapt economically to a global effort towards sustainability. Also addressed will be the suggestions made by the IPCC for green house gas reduction and their relation to Michigan's current structural economic transitions. The presentation will show how the U.S. involvement with the Bali Roadmap may be utilized by Michigan to spawn new industries and thrive economically.

## **Conserving Energy and Developing Alternative Sources: An Incentive Program**

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Climate change presents challenges to public and private state institutions as population increases along with the demand for more energy. Encouraging conservation of energy and alternative energy sources may be a practical method to solve these climate change challenges. Economic incentives such as subsidies for clean energy development, carbon taxes, and trading can guide the Great Lakes region to sustainable alternatives to current levels of consumption. We propose an incentive program to encourage the conservation of energy and the development of alternative sources. Supplying sustainable and renewable energy to the Great Lakes Region is important for reducing our carbon footprint, providing green jobs, and encouraging sustainable business practices. We will propose the implementation of state level incentives to encourage compliance with the program. The first step in addressing the issue of the increasing demand for energy is to encourage implementation of incentives to reduce energy consumption. Secondly, we focus on wind energy as a supplemental energy source which has the potential to reduce carbon emissions and provide carbon credit trading opportunities between the State of Michigan and electricity suppliers. Additional energy generation from windmills will help supply sustainable energy to the increasing demand for energy in the future. The objectives of this incentive program will be to reduce overall energy consumption, sustainably utilize our natural resources, and maximize economic and resource efficiency. Finally, we will examine ways to overcome obstacles currently challenging the implementation of alternative sources.