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OF NEBRASKA

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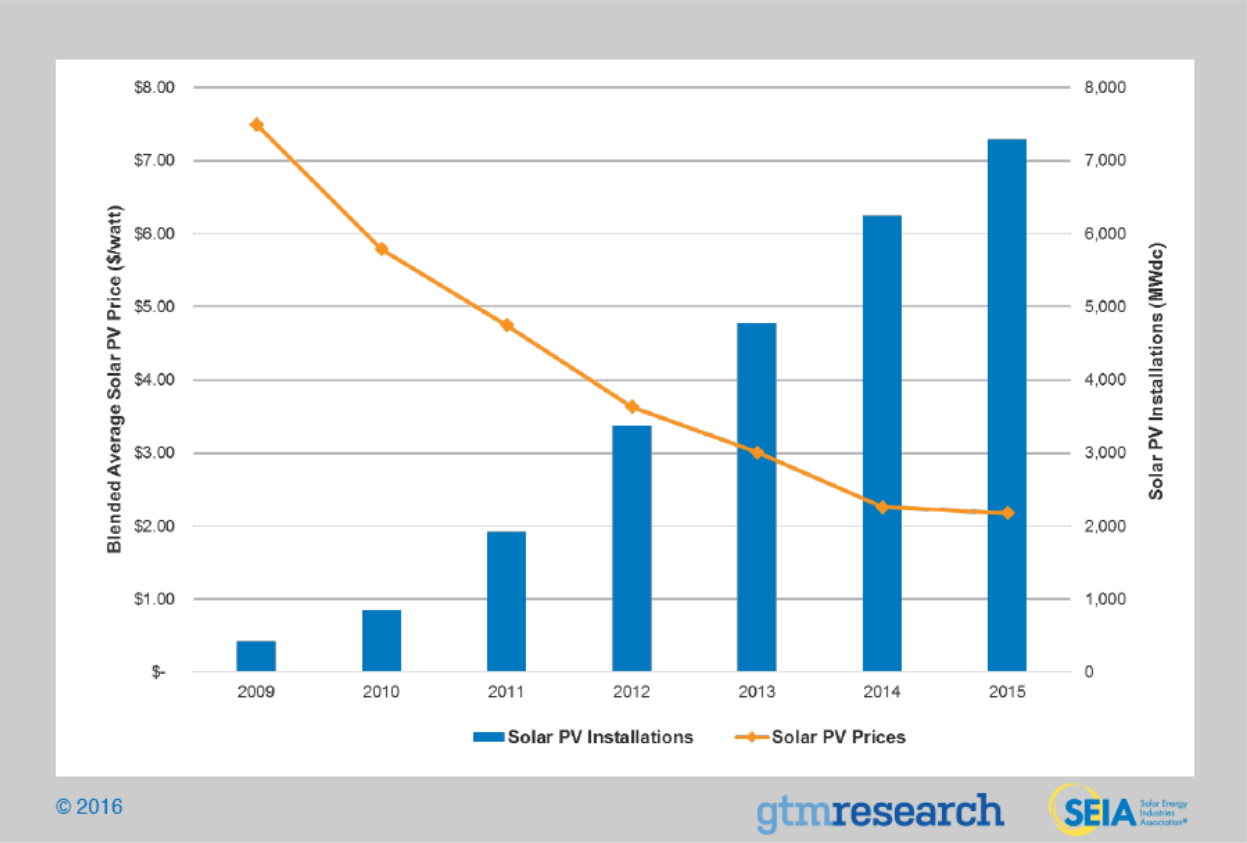
Solar energy is the most abundant renewable energy source and is the fastest growing energy technology in the country, on an annual percentage basis. Nebraska has been slow to tap into this economic development opportunity, even though we are ranked thirteenth among the states with the greatest energy potential from solar power. If we want to grow Nebraska jobs, boost our economy and diversify our energy mix, this bill provides one way forward. Solar energy also helps Nebraska homeowners, businesses, farmers and ranchers, churches, schools and other public institutions save money and decrease reliance on imported coal.

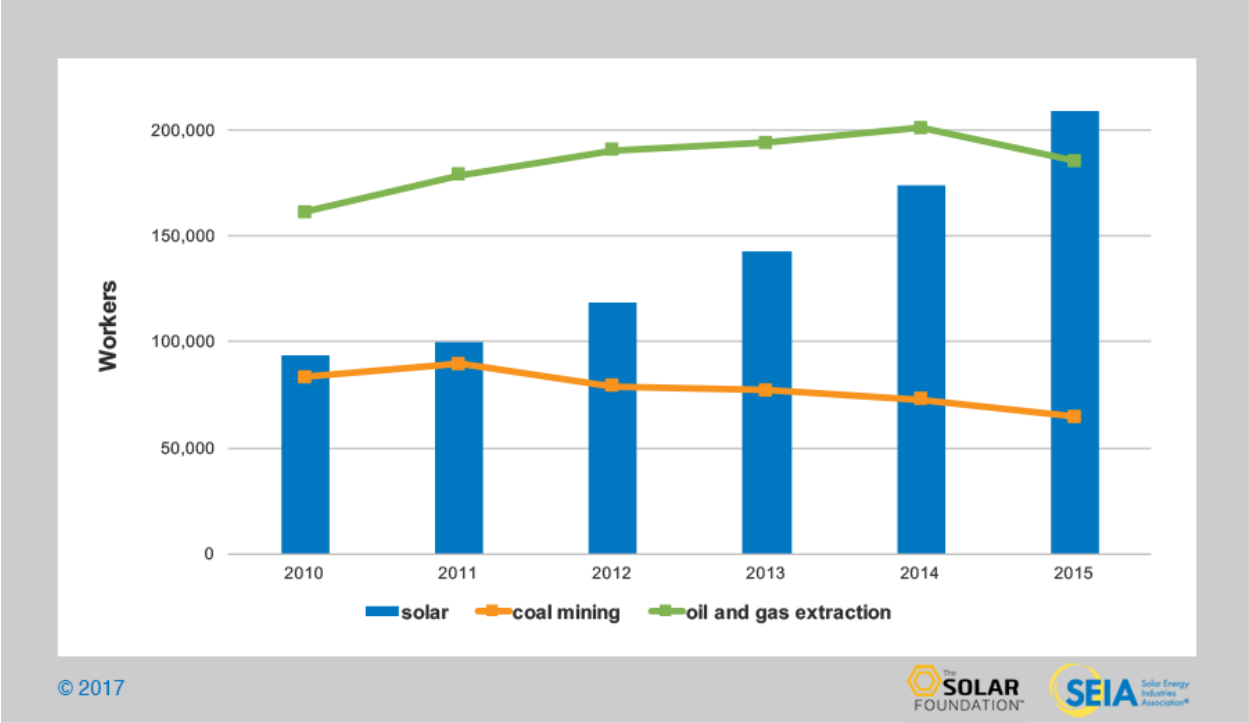
The cost to install solar has dropped by more than 60% over the last 10 years, leading the industry to expand into new markets and deploy thousands of systems nationwide.



Here are some growth indicators:

- Over 4 GW installed in third quarter 2016
  - 2016 has already become the largest year ever
- Nearly 36 GW of total solar capacity now installed
  - Generates enough electricity to power 6.5 million homes
- Solar prices dropped 19% from 2015 to 2016
  - Prices have dropped 62% over the last five years
- Through third quarter 2016, solar represents 39% of all newly installed electric capacity

Nearly 209,000 Americans work in solar - more than double the number in 2010 - at more than 9,000 companies in every U.S. state. By 2021, that number is expected to increase to more than 360,000 workers. Solar installation and maintenance are local jobs that benefit Nebraska communities.



Data from SEIA's annual Solar Means Business report show that major U.S. corporations, including Target, Walmart and Apple are going solar at an incredible rate. The top 25 corporate solar users in America have installed nearly 1,100 MW of capacity at 2,000 different facilities across the country as of October 2016.

Other key takeaways:

- The amount of solar installed at U.S. corporations and businesses is enough to offset 1.1 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year
    - Most of the energy consumed by modern industrial society today comes from the burning of fossil fuels -- coal, oil, and natural gas. This is the primary source of the heat-trapping emissions responsible for global climate change. To curb global warming and avoid the most dangerous consequences of climate change, we must shift away from fossil fuels and transition to clean sources of energy.
- Commercial prices have fallen by 58% since 2012 and by 16% in the last year.

It only makes sense for Nebraska to move forward to promote community solar as an economic development opportunity for a sustainable future.

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