

# THE JAMES MADISON INSTITUTE

*"Florida's Premier Free-Market Think Tank Since 1987"*

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## JMI Releases Study on Florida's Energy Future

TALLAHASSEE - Emerging alternative energy technologies may develop into feasible and cost-effective sources of energy, but Florida, and the nation as a whole, face some immediate and crucial choices regarding energy. Making realistic, smart choices will protect our economy and provide an efficient transition to practical alternative sources.

**"A Cost-Effective Bridge to Florida's Energy Future,"** a new Backgrounder written by JMI Adjunct Scholar James Taylor, provides economic, geographic, environmental, and technological information to consider including:

- Government intervention in the market should not prematurely restrict conventional sources in favor of sources that are neither cost-effective nor practical.
- Recognition that Florida's wind power potential is limited and solar power potential is average.
- Benefit to Florida from the recovery of oil and natural gas from the Gulf during the transition.
- Recognition that all energy sources, including alternatives, create certain negative environmental consequences, and that technological innovations in the use of conventional sources continue to yield improvements in environmental impact.

"There will likely come a day when alternative fuel technologies will offer an economically competitive choice, significantly supplementing or replacing coal, oil, and natural gas. . . At the present time, however, traditional sources such as coal, oil, and natural gas are far superior economically *and environmentally* to the proposed alternatives of wind power, solar power, and other niche renewable energy options." -**James M. Taylor, JMI Adjunct Scholar and Heartland Institute Senior Fellow**

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