



GOODJOBS GREENJOBS

National Conference

***Making a Down Payment
on the Green Economy***

ADVOCACY DAY – FEBRUARY 4, 2009

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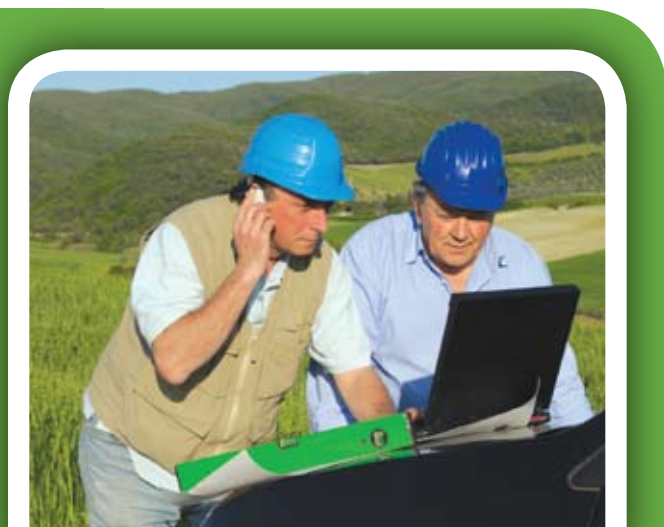
Good Jobs, Green Jobs Advocacy Day

With our nation and our world in the midst of both an economic and environmental crisis, we need bold, new policies that place the United States on the road to energy independence, spur investment in new clean energy technologies, and most importantly, immediately encourage job creation and retention on a mass scale. This is our nation's pathway to prosperity.



In this 21st-century global economy, environmental and economic sustainability go hand-in-hand. We must, therefore, invest in a clean energy future and in American workers. One must not occur without the other.

We come together as a coalition representing a broad range of communities and stakeholders — including labor, environmentalists, community activists, businesses and academia — to help shape these policies. We believe these policies can make states and cities across America cleaner, healthier, and more prosperous places to live and work; help in the fight against global warming; lift Americans out of poverty and revitalize our nation's middle class by creating a new generation of well-paid, green-collar jobs, many of them in unions. They will further allow America's businesses to lead the world in clean energy products and services and stimulate the flow of private and public capital into clean energy and energy efficiency initiatives that will have a positive impact across a wide spectrum of our economy.



Both Congress and the new administration have announced that revitalizing the economy and protecting the environment are key priorities and are actively working on an economic recovery package to achieve those objectives. The United States is, therefore, in a unique position to enact policies that will accelerate the growth of the green economy, empower workers with strong labor standards and more job opportunities, and reduce our nation's greenhouse gas emissions.

A report released in 2008 by the Center for American Progress (CAP) highlighted the economic and employment opportunities that can result when significant investments are made in the green economy, specifically what an investment of \$100 billion can mean for the U.S. economy over a two-year period. CAP estimated that new construction and manufacturing opportunities can be created for American workers and businesses, with the potential creation of over 900,000 jobs in the construction industry and over 580,000 jobs in the industries that supply American-made component parts and products for wind turbines, energy efficiency and building retrofits. CAP also estimated that almost 500,000 jobs would be created in the retail and wholesale industries as a result of increased capital from increased employment, leading to the potential total creation of two million jobs from a \$100 billion investment.

As Congress and the administration continue to work on an economic recovery package, we urge the inclusion of policies that will place our nation on a path towards a green economic recovery and recommend that the package include the following:

• Energy Efficiency and Infrastructure Upgrades

In order to drive investments in energy efficiency — the most cost-effective, cleanest and quickest way to address our economic and energy challenges — Congress should expand tax incentives for energy-efficient homes, commercial buildings and products; significantly increase funding for the Weatherization Assistance Program; and support innovative strategies, such as the proposal for a Clean Energy Corps to finance energy efficiency retrofits, while creating pathways that prepare workers for well-paid jobs and careers within the construction and building trades. In addition, Congress should also fully fund the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program established by the 2007 Energy Bill, with a specific emphasis on large-scale, block-by-block retrofit projects.

The federal government should serve as a model by unleashing public and private investment in energy efficiency, green building and renewable-energy projects in public facilities. This can be achieved by providing incentives for retrofitting public buildings using energy efficiency, green building standards and certification programs (such as LEED), and upgrading our nation's grid (SmartGrid and new transmission lines).

The U.S. has an outmoded and crumbling water infrastructure system that cannot cope with its drinking- water, waste-water or flood-prevention systems. Investment in water systems has not kept pace with population growth, sprawling development or maintenance needs, and our country's infrastructure now faces the effects of climate change — including more severe droughts, frequent storms, and intense flooding — that make a bad situation worse. According to the EPA, at least \$500 billion is needed in capital funding to repair and upgrade water, waste-water, and storm-water systems to ensure that we have safe, adequate water supplies for people and wildlife. Water and waste-water utilities estimate that they have at least \$30 billion of ready-to-go projects that can create millions of good jobs that cannot be sent offshore, move the U.S. toward a 21st-century economy and protect public health, safety and the environment at the same time. The American Public Works Association estimates that every \$1 billion invested in infrastructure generates about 35,000 jobs for engineers, construction workers, plumbers, architects, maintenance workers and many others.

• Long-Term Extension of Clean Energy Tax Incentives

In 2008, Congress extended a variety of critical tax incentives for renewable energy and energy efficiency investments. These tax incentives help drive the development of renewable energy projects and help consumers save energy in their homes. Unfortunately, many of the tax credits, including the Renewable Energy



Production Tax Credit (PTC) for wind, biomass and other renewable energy projects, expire at the end of 2009. Furthermore, none of the tax incentives currently provide Davis-Bacon prevailing wage protections for construction workers employed on renewable energy projects. In order to ensure continued investment in, and job creation from, these technologies in the U.S., it is essential that these tax credits be extended for at least five years and that they contain Davis-Bacon wage protections. The economic downturn has intensified the need to address these tax credits, wiping out profits and tax liability across the economy and undermining the effectiveness of existing tax incentives. By making the technologies covered by the clean energy tax incentives temporarily eligible for Department of Energy grants or other comparable investment programs, we can maintain the powerful force of clean energy development during these challenging economic times.

• Investment in Domestic Manufacturing

America's manufacturing sector is critical to our economic success. Indeed, manufacturing is at the heart of the clean energy economy, making up nearly 80 percent of all jobs in the solar and wind industries. Congress should rebuild domestic manufacturing by providing loan guarantees for retooling and retraining so that firms can transition to producing parts for the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors. Congress should also invest additional funds in the Manufacturing Extension Partnership network, that provides critical technical assistance and support to manufacturing firms struggling to retool, retrain workers, and take advantage of clean energy opportunities. In addition, Congress should create U.S. manufacturing jobs by providing rebates for the purchase of energy-saving products produced in the U.S., such as high-efficiency boilers, energy-efficient windows, and anti-idling equipment for trucks.

- **Investment in Transportation Infrastructure and Public Transit**

We cannot allow new highways to be built when our existing roads and bridges are in disrepair. Congress should reinvest in our country's existing transportation infrastructure by adopting a fix-it-first strategy that promotes repair projects leading to more efficient land use, emissions reduction, and traffic-flow improvement. At the same time, Congress should expand our public transit infrastructure by investing in ready-to-go public transit projects, as well as conversion of existing city buses and rail cars to clean-energy vehicles. Updating our mass transit systems and creating a sustainable freight transportation system that includes establishing viable markets for trucking firms that embrace technological innovation, a high-road labor strategy and ownership and operation of alternative energy trucks will quickly create hundreds of thousands of good jobs.

- **Green Jobs Act Funding**

The Green Jobs Act created a mechanism for funding national, state and pathways-out-of-poverty job training programs, including apprenticeships, so workers can realize career opportunities in the emerging green economy. In order to ensure that the United States has the workforce in place to staff the jobs that will be created in the green economy, and to ensure that this new economy is inclusive of all Americans, it is critical that this worker-training program receive funding equal to at least twice the authorized level.

In addition, we strongly urge Congress to quickly pass responsible cap-and-trade legislation to limit greenhouse gas emissions, with auction revenues used to help provide long-term funding for our country's transition to a low-carbon economy.



One of the most affordable means to simultaneously address job creation and combat global warming is to invest in recycling and composting industries. Recycling industries already provide more than 1.1 million jobs in the United States with an average national recycling rate of only 32 percent. We urge the establishment of a comprehensive national recycling, composting and waste-reduction program. Such a program would reduce greenhouse gas emissions, equal to taking more than half of our nation's cars off the road.

Our coalition strongly believes that well-crafted public policies with strong labor and public health standards that move us steadily and predictably toward global warming emissions reductions will have a net positive impact on our nation's economy. In the clean-energy economy, America can be a world leader again in exporting its products and innovation to the rest of the world, instead of importing foreign sources of energy and exporting our jobs.

We look forward to working with Congress to pass policies that will drive investments that are necessary to accelerate the growth of the green economy and prepare America's workers for the good jobs it creates.

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