



Secure and properly fund an effective energy and just transition for Illinois.

A Pro-Worker,
Pro-Climate Illinois

Illinois must secure and properly fund an effective energy and just transition for Illinois.

Illinois has the opportunity to lead the United States in tackling the climate crisis in ways that effectively and fairly manage the transition to low-carbon, clean energy generation systems. This transition should not come on the backs of workers and communities that have powered Illinois' economy for decades. There are currently 142 coal, oil, gas, and nuclear plants operating in Illinois that employ 45,000 workers and provide billions of dollars in tax revenue to local communities. As of 2018, approximately 85% of Illinois' electric generation capacity is from coal, gas, and nuclear plants. Transitioning Illinois to low-carbon, clean energy electric power generation will have significant labor, employment, and community impacts that must be carefully examined and taken into consideration as Illinois strives to meet its climate protection and clean energy goals.

Just Transition
Priorities

A just transition in Illinois should prioritize the following:

- Provide workers and communities with at least two years of advanced notice of a plant closure. This gives workers time to find new employment and acquire new skills through training and education. It also allows communities to plan for the budget impact of the closure, which can be as much as \$40 million per year in some communities, severely impacting the community's ability to fund schools, police, firefighters, highway departments, and other critical services.
- Establish a dedicated Just Transition Fund and allow workers and communities to apply for support to help them transition to new jobs and economic activities. The support should include: 3-5 years of wage, health care, and benefits replacements; 3-5 years of tax revenue replacement for communities; 50% retention bonuses for workers who agree to continue working at a plant slated for closure; relocation assistance for workers who need to move to find employment in another region within the state; retraining and education assistance for workers who want to develop new skills to transition into other fields and occupations within the state; project labor agreements (PLAs) for power plant decommissioning and closure work, with targeted hiring of fossil fuel workers; and free tuition to Illinois' public universities and community colleges for the children of directly-impacted fossil fuel workers.
- Properly fund the Just Transition Fund using new sources of revenue— with considerations for contributions from the ratemaking process, from fees on existing electric generating facilities based on their carbon emissions, and/or from social insurance taxes on new wind and solar electric generation facilities that benefit from the transition to clean energy.
- Continue the operation of the state's nuclear power plants that account for 54% of all electric power consumption in Illinois.
- Explore and advance proposals to convert existing fossil fuel sites to renewables-based generation capacity, like coal to solar, to keep workers employed and communities whole.
- Increase funding for the FEJA Jobs Training plan to a total of \$50 million for clean energy pipeline training programs, craft apprenticeships, and multicultural training for individuals from diverse and underserved backgrounds.
- Establish an Energy and Just Transition Task Force, with representatives from labor, industry, environmental organizations, and state government, that will oversee and monitor Illinois' transition, including the above priorities, to ensure that Illinois workers and communities are adequately protected and supported through this significant transition.