POWERING THE CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

PRO-WORKER, PRO-CLIMATE SOLUTIONS FOR ILLINOIS

CLIMATE JOBS ILLINOIS

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A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE URGENT NEED FOR BOLD CLIMATE ACTION CANNOT WAIT, AND THE MASSIVE INEQUITIES IN OUR SOCIETY CAN BE OVERLOOKED NO LONGER.

Wildfires ravaging the American West. Hurricanes wiping out Southern coastlines, and in Illinois and across the Midwest, record-setting droughts and floods obliterating crop yields.

The real-time images of the climate crisis, once thought of perhaps as a faraway problem for future generations, have now come to life in communities near and far.

At the same time, a lurking crisis that has been decades — some would say centuries — in the making has lurched to the forefront of our collective consciousness as the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately afflicted black and brown communities in frighteningly stark terms across our state.

The urgent need for bold climate action cannot wait, and the massive inequities in our society can be overlooked no longer.

In Illinois, the labor community has never shied away from a fight, and with the assembling of the Climate Jobs Illinois coalition, we have united to take on the greatest challenges of our generation to advocate for a pro-worker, pro-climate agenda.

From wind turbine technicians, solar panel installers and nuclear plant engineers, to security officers, teachers and janitors, Climate Jobs Illinois represents hundreds of thousands of Illinois working men and women who can power our way to a new clean energy future. Climate Jobs Illinois will push for our comprehensive, 10-point policy plan that transitions Illinois to a 100% carbon free future by 2050. We don't have to choose between jobs and a clean, better future.

Admittedly, this is an ambitious plan but an achievable one, too, grounded in extensive academic research by some of the country's leading climate scientists and labor experts.

With this plan, we have an opportunity to set a new way forward in Illinois for what a clean energy economy looks like, one that is built and powered by jobs that will reverse generations of carbon emissions and build a pathway for new generations of workers to join the middle class. We can justly transition from fossil fuels and raise the bar on transparency and accountability for utilities and energy developers in the greater interest of ratepayers and consumers.

By advocating for bold clean energy investments with comprehensive labor standards — through prevailing wages, apprenticeship requirements, labor peace and project labor agreements, and responsible bidder requirements — our coalition will fight to ensure that we meet this moment of immense crisis, not only to overcome these challenges but to reimagine and rebalance our economy. By actively recruiting individuals from historically disadvantaged communities, preparing them for lifelong careers in the clean energy sector, we can ensure that this work will be built locally by highly-trained workers from Illinois to benefit generations to come.

This is the roadmap for us all to move forward toward a cleaner, fairer future in Illinois.

Join us.

Nikki Budzinski
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CLIMATE JOBS ILLINOIS

CLIMATE JOBS ILLINOIS
WHO WE ARE

Climate Jobs Illinois represents the hundreds of thousands of Illinois working men and women who are best suited to build Illinois' new clean-energy economy from the ground up. The organization's Governing Board includes:

TIM DREA
Illinois AFL-CIO
President and Chair

PAT DEVANEY
Illinois AFL-CIO
Secretary Treasurer

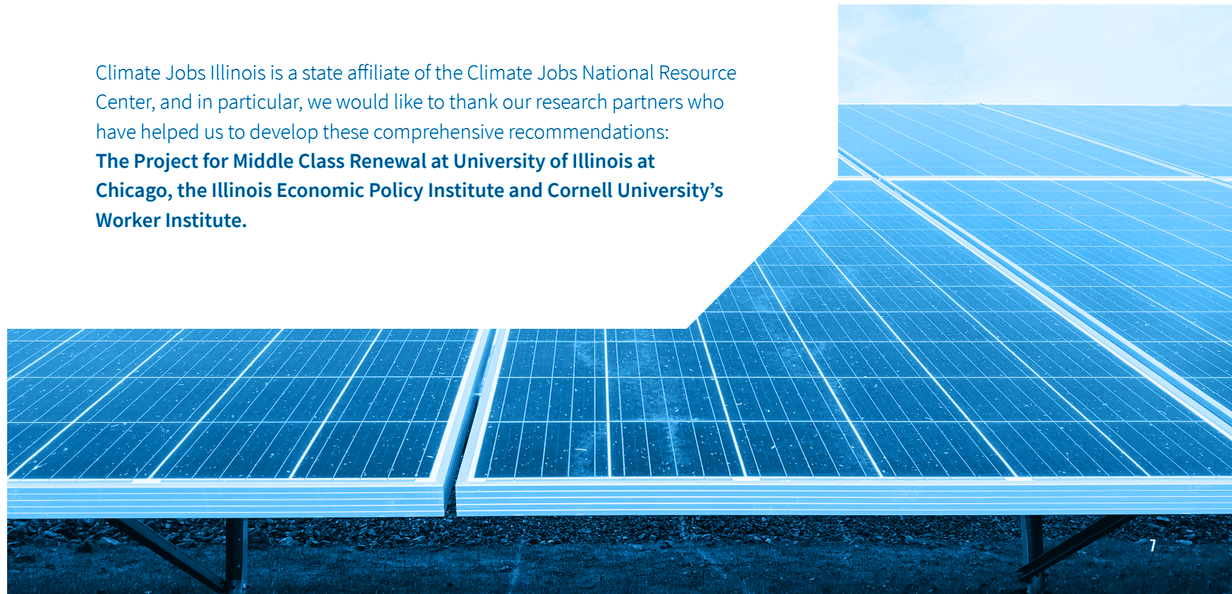
BOB REITER
Chicago Federation of Labor President

RALPH AFFRUNTI
Chicago & Cook County Building & Construction Trades Council President

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF CLIMATE JOBS ILLINOIS ARE:

- Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers Union
- Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 13
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers State Council
- Illinois Federation of Teachers
- International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150
- Laborers International Union of North America Great Lakes Region
- Laborers International Union of North America Midwest Region
- Service Employees International Union State Council
- United Auto Workers Region 4

Climate Jobs Illinois is a state affiliate of the Climate Jobs National Resource Center, and in particular, we would like to thank our research partners who have helped us to develop these comprehensive recommendations: **The Project for Middle Class Renewal at University of Illinois at Chicago, the Illinois Economic Policy Institute and Cornell University's Worker Institute.**



OUR AGENDA: LABOR LEADING THE WAY ON SOLVING THE CLIMATE CRISIS, REVERSING INEQUALITY

We don’t have to choose.

Illinois can act now to protect our communities from the worst effects of climate change while also fighting against growing economic inequality. We can do that through union-led initiatives that create good-paying jobs on projects that reduce emissions and infuse new power generation sources into our economy.

Climate Jobs Illinois’ 10-point plan provides the blueprint for achieving a 100% clean energy economy by 2050 with a pro-worker agenda that will ensure a cleaner, fairer future for all Illinoisans.

CARBON-FREE POWER GENERATION POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

INSTALL 10 GIGAWATTS OF UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR POWER BY 2030.

This investment would cut Illinois' carbon emissions by 30%, equivalent to powering 2.2 million homes (AWEA, 2020), and for every gigawatt of utility-scale solar power installed, about 76,000 total jobs would be saved or created.

The State can incentivize more solar power infrastructure by expanding the High Impact Business (HIB) program to large solar energy facilities, increasing Illinois Power Agency (IPA) renewable energy credits (RECs, or the equivalent to one megawatt-hour of energy generated from renewable sources), introducing flexible RECs pricing and prioritizing utility-scale projects – which are the most cost-effective way to meet the state's clean energy goals. Illinois should also enact a statewide zoning standard to reduce regulations and limit project delays for utility-scale solar projects.

Applying prevailing wage standards and project labor agreements (PLAs) – or pre-hiring agreements that set apprenticeship ratios, targeted hiring goals, and no-strike clauses – would ensure that Illinois' utility-scale solar energy infrastructure is built locally with responsible contractors and skilled workers.

> "Without the state acting, my good-paying job and the progress we've made to cut emissions will end as quickly as a flip of a switch."

Christine Blair
OPERATING ENGINEER-SOLAR PROJECTS,
IUOE LOCAL 150, DEKALB, ILL.

FIGURE 1: ECONOMIC IMPACT OF INSTALLING 1 GW OF UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR POWER IN ILLINOIS

ECONOMIC IMPACT	PRIMARY SECTORS	JOBS CREATED OR SAVED	TOTAL WORKER INCOME IN ILLINOIS	TOTAL ECONOMIC OUTPUT IN ILLINOIS
Direct	Construction	2,800	$374 million	$1.13 Billion
Indirect	Manufacturing, Technical Services, and Transportation	1,800	$162 million	$0.73 Billion
Induced	Health Care, Real Estate, and Restaurants and Bars	3,000	$165 million	$0.49 Billion
TOTAL IMPACTS		**7,600**	**$701 MILLION**	**$2.35 BILLION**

INSTALL UP TO 13 GIGAWATTS OF UTILITY-SCALE WIND POWER TO CUT CARBON EMISSIONS IN ILLINOIS BY AS MUCH AS 38% AND SAVE OR CREATE UP TO 67,000 JOBS.

Illinois is primed to be a leader in wind development and generation. The state currently ranks 6th in the nation for installed wind capacity and 3rd in wind industry employment (AWEA, 2020). Utility-scale wind projects are also cheaper to build per megawatt-hour than new coal and natural gas projects (Lazard, 2017).

Building on Illinois' leading national role in wind generation, the State can spur new development by increasing IPA RECs and introducing flexible REC pricing. A statewide zoning standard can reduce regulations and limit project delays for utility-scale wind projects. With new legislation to apply prevailing wage standards and project labor agreements (PLAs)–comprehensive pre-hire agreements that include apprenticeship ratios, targeted hire goals, and no-strike clauses–on these large construction projects, the development of utility-scale solar energy would ensure that a strong Illinois is built locally with responsible contractors and skilled workers

Installing 13 gigawatts of wind power by 2030 would cut Illinois' carbon emissions by up to 28 metric tons (38%), equivalent to powering 2.9 million homes.

AWEA, 2020

STRENGTHEN TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO PROTECT CONSUMERS.

With public mistrust of utility companies growing in Illinois, now is the time to expand oversight to protect workers, consumers, and taxpayers. Instituting these transparency and accountability measures would function as an insurance policy for Illinois ratepayers and a protection plan for Illinois workers.

Chief among Climate Jobs Illinois' recommendations, the State should create a division in the ICC to track RECs, ZECs and other clean energy initiatives that utilize taxpayer or ratepayer dollars. Utilities should be required to file workforce diversity and diversity goals with the ICC, and developers should also provide detailed employment data, including local worker share, disadvantaged worker share, wage and benefits information, among other disclosures.

Further, on taxpayer-funded public works construction projects, contractors and subcontractors are required to produce copies of records to the Illinois Department of Labor. Contractors and subcontractors that fail to maintain the required records are subject to violations, penalties, and debarment (IDOL, 2020). Similar accountability measures should be enacted for utilities, developers, contractors and subcontractors on ratepayer-funded energy projects.

In addition, Climate Jobs Illinois believes performance-based rates (PBR) will deliver the best rates for consumers while also ensuring that utilities make necessary investments in clean energy infrastructure and baseload power (Trabish, 2019). PBR enables regulators to incentivize utilities to implement advanced technologies and smart solutions into the utility grid and in their broader operations which ultimately are intended to deliver better value for consumers.

Other features of Climate Jobs Illinois' transparency and accountability recommendation include:

- Require utilities to disclose revenues and expenses related to ZECs to the ICC
- Require buyers and sellers of RECs in Illinois to report transactions to the ICC
- Require owners of RECs to report their total annual REC values to the ICC
- Require contractors and subcontractors to disclose five years of business responsibility records, including OSHA violations, wage and hour violations, legal violations, project defaults, debarments, and suspensions of licenses

"Building wind turbines has provided my family a roof over our heads, food on the table and a cleaner tomorrow."

Bob Howard
A WIND CONSTRUCTION LABORER,
LIUNA LOCAL 362, NORMAL, ILL

STABILIZE THE CURRENT ENERGY PORTFOLIO, PROMOTE RELIABILITY AND PREVENT A RISE IN CARBON EMISSIONS BY KEEPING ILLINOIS' NUCLEAR PLANTS OPEN TO SAVE OR CREATE 24,000 JOBS.

Include the Braidwood, Byron, Dresden and LaSalle nuclear plants in the zero emission standard program and adopt the Fixed Resource Requirement process that allows the nuclear fleet to remain competitive in future capacity auctions. Currently, only the Clinton and Quad Cities nuclear plants are included in the zero emission standard program and receive zero emission credits (ZECs), which compensate for the environmental benefits of carbon-free energy generation.

The IPA awards ZECs and requires utilities to purchase those ZECs (Lexology, 2018). All utilities receiving ZECs created by the State of Illinois should also be required to disclose the appropriate financial information to the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) to ensure the program continues to be both accountable to ratepayers and to allow Illinois to meet its clean energy goals.

Nuclear power accounts for 54% of all electric power consumption in Illinois, and the state currently ranks 1st in the nation in electricity generation by nuclear power, with 12.4 gigawatts of generating capacity from these six facilities (EIA, 2020).

With Exelon exploring closing the Byron and Dresden nuclear plants, it would increase CO2 emissions by 60 million metric tons each year as the lost energy is replaced primarily by fossil-fuel-based sources, such as coal and natural gas, primarily from out-of-state – equivalent to almost 13 million cars (Murphy & Berkman, 2019; Berkman & Murphy, 2016).

Closure would also pose a devastating impact on local communities. Overall, the state's nuclear power plants boost the Illinois economy by $3.9 billion annually and directly employ more than 3,800 workers in stable careers paying well over $100,000 per year in wages and benefits (IMPLAN, 2020). These plants also sustain or create an additional 24,000 jobs and contribute $150 million in total state tax revenues (Murphy & Berkman, 2019).

Further, in many cases, nuclear power plants are their local communities' largest property tax producer to fund schools and other public services. At the Byron facility, for example, it employs over 700 workers and contributes $36 million in local property taxes–the most of any property in the United States outside of New York (O'Neil, 2018). Closure would be devastating to these communities.

NUCLEAR POWER IS VITAL TO COMBATTING POLLUTION, PROMOTING RELIABLE AND AFFORDABLE ELECTRICITY, BOOSTING JOB CREATION AND LOCAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.

NUCLEAR POWER GENERATION

54% 54% of all electric power consumption in Illinois is nuclear-generated

#1 Illinois ranks 1st in the nation in electricity generation by nuclear power

ECONOMIC IMPACT

$3.9B Illinois nuclear power plants boost the state economy by $3.9 billion annually

$100K Over 3,800 workers that earn over $100,000 per year in wages and benefits

$150M 24,000 indirect jobs and $150 million in total state tax revenues

60M METRIC TONS

Impact of Closure at Byron and Dresden plants Increase CO2 emissions by 60 million metric tons each year – equivalent to almost 13 million cars

SOURCE: IMPLAN, 2020

JUST TRANSITION

ILLINOIS MUST SECURE AND PROPERLY FUND AN EFFECTIVE ENERGY AND JUST TRANSITION.

Currently, Illinois' 142 coal, oil, gas, and nuclear plants employ 45,000 workers and provide billions of dollars in tax revenue to local communities. Transitioning Illinois to low-carbon, clean energy electric power generation will have significant 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.

Climate Jobs Illinois proposes establishing a dedicated Just Transition Fund that provides:

- 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 to find employment in another region in Illinois
- Retraining assistance for workers to develop new skills to transition into other fields in the state

The State should properly support 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.

Our coalition also calls for providing workers and communities with at least two years' 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.

Other recommendations for a Just Transition include:

- → Existing fossil fuel sites slated for closure should be transitioned 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 $50 million for clean energy pipeline training programs and craft apprenticeships
- → Establish an Energy and Just Transition Task Force, with representatives from labor, industry, environmental organizations and state government, that will monitor Illinois' transition to ensure that Illinois workers and communities are adequately supported

USE THE ILLINOIS WORKS JOBS PROGRAM TO ESTABLISH A PIPELINE INTO JOINT APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS FOR WORKERS FROM DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES.

Since the transition to a clean energy economy relies on ratepayer-funded subsidies created by the State, its plan should reflect middle-class earnings, quality standards, and diversity goals supported by Illinois residents through prevailing wage standards, project labor agreements, and joint labor-management apprenticeship programs–which deliver training hours, graduation rates, and competitive earnings at an average wage of $40 per hour that rival the performance of Illinois' four-year universities (Manzo & Bruno, 2020).

The Illinois Works Jobs Program is a cooperative effort between developers, contractors, unions, nonprofits and community development agencies to recruit young workers, people of color, women and others from disadvantaged communities into joint labor-management apprenticeship programs and lifelong careers in construction. The program administers grants to nonprofit community-based organizations for apprenticeship readiness training for people from disadvantaged communities and ensures apprentices account for 10% of hours worked on public works projects.

An improved, well-funded Illinois Works Jobs Program that includes the clean energy sector would encourage utility companies, developers, contractors, and subcontractors to hire workers from historically underrepresented populations. Developers and clean energy project owners participating in the Illinois Works Program would be given preference in awards for RECs in IPA procurements.

Two pilot programs, one in the Chicago area and one Downstate, should also be encouraged to test and demonstrate the effectiveness of the Illinois Works Jobs Program in the clean energy space. HIRE360–an organization launched by developers, contractors, unions, and the United Way of Metro Chicago to improve diversity in the trades and form new minority- and women-owned businesses through a contractor incubator–and similar nonprofit programs have the knowledge and the ability to lead these two pilot programs (Ori, 2019).

REFORM RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS (RECS) WITH A POINTS SYSTEM TO SUPPORT WORKING FAMILIES AND PROMOTE EQUITY.

Developing an incentive-based points system for RECs would promote social equity, attract and retain skilled workers, and ensure that the next generation of Illinois construction workers is trained. Organizations that meet all of the criteria would be given the highest weight and move to the top of the list in the competition for RECs. This points system would expand middle-class job opportunities, support local Illinois-based companies and ensure broad-based prosperity in the transition to a clean energy economy.

RECs offered by the State should reflect local compensation rates, quality standards, diversity goals and economic development priorities of Illinois residents by:

- Prioritizing utility-scale RECs
- Requiring prevailing wages and project labor agreements on all projects receiving ratepayer-funded REC subsidies created by the State
- Introducing a points system in awarding RECs in IPA auctions.

In a new equity-centric REC system, developers and contractors would be required to disclose their workforce diversity to be eligible for RECs. The REC procurement process would give preference to applicants if: 1.) their workforce reflects the diversity of the county or metro area where a project is proposed or 2.) the company submits a plan with explicit, concrete actions to improve diversity.

The equity-centric REC system would also give higher priority to qualified applicants that:

- Have distributed or community-scale projects in low-income zip codes or Opportunity Zones, economically distressed communities where new investments are eligible for preferential tax treatment (DCEO, 2020).
- Use an ownership model on distributed or community-scale projects in which the party generating the energy is also the one using it, instead of a power purchase agreement (PPA) model–which ensures that RECs stay in-state where energy is used.
- Are Disadvantaged Business Enterprises
- Participate in U.S. Department of Labor-approved apprenticeship programs (Manzo & Bruno, 2020).
- Participate in the Illinois Works Jobs Program

Clawback provisions must be applied if utilities and developers are awarded RECs but they–or their contractors and subcontractors–fail to meet these criteria. "Use-it-or-lose-it" provisions must also be included to ensure RECs are efficiently used.

BUILDING EFFICIENCY

CREATE A CARBON FREE SCHOOLS INITIATIVE THAT INSTALLS 4 GIGAWATTS OF SOLAR POWER BY 2030 AND REQUIRES ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS AT ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Initiative features:

- → Save taxpayers money
- → Create thousands of jobs for Illinois workers
- → Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and pollution
- → Improve academic performance
- → Promote public health

Public school districts account for 12% of total energy consumption in Illinois, and they spend an estimated $322 million per year on energy costs. At the same time, Illinois' school districts require $9 billion in structural repairs and heating, ventilation and air conditioning improvements. Pairing building improvements with new solar systems can deliver substantial cost savings. Schools can save between 25% and 33% on annual energy costs by prioritizing energy efficiency improvements (DOE, 2002; Farese et al., 2009).

Installing 4 gigawatts of solar power by 2030 would cut carbon emissions by 9 million metric tons (12%), equivalent to powering 897,000 homes (AWEA, 2020). This investment would support over 67,000 total jobs across Illinois, including over 25,000 direct jobs for skilled construction workers (IMPLAN, 2020).

Carbon Free Schools Initiative can save schools nearly $5.2 billion over over 25 years

Installations would be financed by 1.5%-interest loans over 20 years through a new State-run revolving loan fund at the IPA capitalized by the State with support from the federal government and RECs averaging $60 for contract terms of 15 years. The program would cost the average household about $6 on its monthly utility bill, but differential pricing would ask commercial and industrial properties to pay more and would provide credits to low-income residents and seniors.

The initiative would prioritize the "ownership model," with school districts owning the solar arrays themselves, and would pay prevailing wages. Any school using the power purchase agreement (PPA) model would be required to include a project labor agreement (PLA).

Over 25 years, solar power would save the average school district $3.2 million ($127,000 per year) and energy efficiency improvements could save an additional $2.9 million ($115,000 per year. As a result, the Carbon Free Schools Initiative can save schools nearly $5.2 billion over 25 years.

The IPA's Adjustable Block Program would be amended to increase the value of RECs if they are generated by public school districts and other entities with high social impact (e.g., colleges and universities, public buildings, and hospitals). The initiative would prioritize Tier 1 and Tier 2 schools first, based on a State feasibility audit on solar and energy efficiency for every district in Illinois.

FIGURE 1: ECONOMIC IMPACT OF INSTALLING 4 GW OF SOLAR POWER AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN ILLINOIS, 2022-2030

ECONOMIC IMPACT	JOBS CREATED OVER 8 YEARS	WORKER INCOME OVER 8 YEARS	TOTAL ECONOMIC OUTPUT IN ILLINOIS
Direct	25,300	$3.3 billion	$10 billion
Indirect	15,800	$1.4 billion	$6.5 billion
Induced	26,200	$1.5 billion	$4.3 billion
TOTAL IMPACTS	**67,300**	**$6.2 BILLION**	**$20.8 BILLION**

FIGURE 2: TOTAL SAVINGS FROM CARBON FREE SCHOOLS INITIATIVE AT ILLINOIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS OVER 25 YEARS

IMPROVEMENT	ASSUMPTIONS	ENERGY SAVING OVER 25 YEARS	
		AVERAGE DISTRICT	ALL DISTRICTS
Solar System Installations	RECs average $60 and IPA loans at 1.5% - interest	$3.17 million	$2.7 billion
Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Conservative 25% energy savings with improvements	$2.88 million	$2.46 billion
TOTAL ENERGY SAVINGS		**$6.05 MILLION**	**$5.16 MILLION**

WHAT A BETTER WAY TO HELP STUDENTS UNDERSTAND HOW CLEAN ENERGY CAN PUT PEOPLE TO WORK AND BE PART OF THE SOLUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE BY REDUCING THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF OUR SCHOOLS. THE STATE LEGISLATURE SHOULD EMBRACE CLIMATE JOBS ILLINOIS' CARBON FREE SCHOOL INITIATIVE.

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE TEACHER
MICHAEL BEEFTINK, MEMBER, IFT LOCAL 1274

TRANSPORTATION

TRANSITION THE FLEET OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT VEHICLES – INCLUDING TRANSIT AND SCHOOL BUSES – TO ILLINOIS-MADE, ZERO-EMISSION ELECTRIC VEHICLES.

Illinois is home to 852 school districts, 59 transit agencies, and over 8,500 local governments, many of which manage a large vehicle fleet. By incentivizing a 100% transition by 2040 of all publicly-owned vehicles, it would reduce emissions by 781,000 metric tons.

Vehicle electrification can be a significant job creator in manufacturing and charging installations. Illinois workers are already active in installing electric vehicle charging stations, and job opportunities would increase in a transition of publicly-owned vehicles. In manufacturing, Illinois has the opportunity to take advantage of Rivian, the new electric truck manufacturer located in Normal, Ill. The plant is scheduled to produce its first electric vehicles in June 2021 and has confirmed plans to build 100,000 custom delivery vehicles for Amazon, in addition to Ford's first fully electric SUV (Transport Topics, 2020).

How Illinois can incentivize and support pro-worker, in-state electric vehicle manufacturing:

- All manufacturers in Illinois that accept state subsidies or tax breaks should be subject to labor standards and labor peace agreements.
- Labor peace agreements should stipulate that the manufacturer cannot disrupt labor's efforts to communicate, organize and represent and, in turn, prohibit labor from work stoppages or other economic interference with the manufacturer.
- Support the U.S. Employment Plan, a federally-approved policy tool that incentivizes manufacturers bidding for public contracts to create good jobs and generate career pathways for women, people of color, veterans and others (Jobs to Move America, 2020).

> A 100% transition by 2040 of all publicly-owned vehicles would reduce emissions by 781,000 metric tons.

> "The Model T helped create the middle class by providing workers with a pathway to good wages and benefits in a union. I look forward to building the next generation of automobiles in the electric vehicle industry.

Bob Thompson
A RIVIAN PRESS OPERATOR

ENCOURAGE FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN TRANSIT SYSTEMS TO SUPPORT THEIR NEEDS THROUGH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND PROMOTE REDUCED EMISSIONS.

A robust public transportation system is vital to reducing overall emissions and creating middle-class jobs. However, historic drops in ridership due to COVID-19 are threatening the viability of the State's public transit systems, which are facing significant revenue shortfalls.

In April and May, during the initial COVID-19 stay-at-home order, the Chicago Transit Authority trains and Metra experienced ridership drops of 86% and 100%, respectively, compared with 2019. Ridership across modes continues to suffer, while revenues remain low. The Regional Transportation Authority sales tax revenues–which support Chicago's three transit agencies–declined by 28% in April and 24% in May, compared to the same months in 2019. The CTA, Pace, and Metra have also experienced at least an 80% reduction in farebox revenue for April and a 90% reduction in May compared to 2019 (RTA, 2020).

To shore up systems nationwide, the American Public Transportation Association has requested $32 billion in emergency federal funding to address future deficits for transit agencies. In supporting this request, Illinois will ensure that adequate transit services can thrive in the future to support reduced transportation emissions.

> Compared to a single-occupancy vehicle, heavy rail–like the 'L' in Chicago–produces 76% fewer emissions per passenger-mile, commuter rail produces 63% fewer emissions, and bus transit produces 33% fewer emissions

(U.S. DOT, 2010).

A POCKET POLICY GUIDE TO CLIMATE JOBS RECOMMENDATIONS

10 steps to moving Illinois to a 100% clean energy economy by 2050

CARBON-FREE POWER GENERATION:

- → Install 10 gigawatts of utility-scale solar power by 2030 with applied labor standards.
- → Install 13 gigawatts of utility-scale wind power to cut carbon emissions in Illinois by 38% and save or create up to 67,000 jobs with applied labor standards.
- → Sustain Illinois' nuclear plants to secure 24,000 jobs and promote reliability and prevent a rise in carbon emissions.
- → Increase transparency and accountability to protect workers and consumers by expanding ICC oversight of public utilities and clean energy developers.

BUILDING EFFICIENCY:

- → Install 4 gigawatts of solar power at all public schools by 2030 to save taxpayers money, create jobs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve academic performance and promote public health.

JUST TRANSITION:

- → Properly fund an effective energy and just transition to support workers impacted by transitioning to a clean energy economy.
- → Reform renewable energy credits (RECs) with a points system to support working families and promote equity.

TRANSPORTATION:

- → Transition the fleet of state and local government vehicles to Illinois-made, zero-emission electric vehicles.
- → Encourage federal investment in transit to support systems through the COVID-19 pandemic and promote reduced emissions.

CLIMATE JOBS
ILLINOIS

climatejobsillinois.org