

# CLIMATE JOBS SCORECARD

Mijin Cha, Data for Progress Senior Fellow

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The climate crisis cannot be ignored any longer. Climate change is happening now and immediate, bold action must be taken to stave off the worst impacts. Greenhouse gas emissions and other key pollutants must be drastically reduced in a short time frame. At the same time, we must act to protect workers and communities negatively impacted by the transition away from fossil fuels. Failing to do so will increase economic inequality and hardship for the very communities and workers that have sacrificed life and livelihood to provide the energy that built our economy.

The good news is that climate policy can be an excellent job creator. Targeted, deliberate policy interventions can create good jobs that pay family-sustaining wages, provide benefits, and strengthen unions. The most successful path forward will both meaningfully reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create good, union jobs. Below are key policies necessary to achieve this vision.<sup>1</sup>

- ▶ **AMBITION:** To meet both the greenhouse gas emissions reductions necessary to prevent the worst impacts of climate change and create good, quality jobs, climate policies must be bold in action, including:
  - ▶ 100 percent clean energy production and consumption targets, including zero-carbon buildings
  - ▶ Achieving net-zero emissions by at least 2050
  - ▶ Mass build out of public transit systems and climate resilient infrastructure, clean energy, energy efficiency and climate-smart infrastructure
  - ▶ Leveraging public procurement policies, like Buy Clean, to support local, clean manufacturing
  
- ▶ **HIGH-ROAD JOB STANDARDS:** To ensure jobs created from climate policies are good jobs that pay family-sustaining wages and provide benefits, policies should provide and/or promote protections for workers, including:
  - ▶ Support for state-approved apprenticeship training
  - ▶ Extending Davis-Bacon<sup>2</sup> and Buy America(n) requirements to all federally funded projects and all federal contractors
  - ▶ Prevailing wage and labor neutrality on non-construction project
  - ▶ Expand the use of Project Labor Agreements<sup>3</sup>
  - ▶ Expand the use of Community Benefits Agreements<sup>4</sup>
  - ▶ Support for collective bargaining and eliminating Right to Work provisions
  
- ▶ **ENSURING FAIRNESS FOR WORKERS AND COMMUNITIES IN A JUST TRANSITION:** To ensure fairness for workers and communities impacted by the transition away from fossil fuels, as well as provide opportunities for all communities and workers in a low-carbon future, targeted policies must be implemented, including:
  - ▶ Community reinvestment funding to seed new businesses and industries to diversify local economies and remediate polluted areas
  - ▶ Providing revenue support to communities losing fossil fuel supported tax bases
  - ▶ Dedicated funding for transition efforts
  - ▶ Fully-funded training programs and relocation support
  - ▶ Wage and benefit support, including pension contributions and health insurance, for displaced workers
  - ▶ Fully funding health and safety funds, such as the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund<sup>5</sup>
  - ▶ Explore a federal jobs guarantee to employ both displaced workers and any worker looking for employment

## ENDNOTES

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1. Thank you to Jessica Eckdish, Dean Baker, Lara Skinner, Anthony Rogers-Wright, PennElys Droz, and Sylvia Chi for their feedback and guidance in drafting this scorecard. The final product reflects Data for Progress's policy priorities to create jobs and empower unions, not necessarily those of our colleagues and advisors.
2. The Davis Bacon Act requires federal contracts over \$2,000 to set minimum wages for various classes of laborers and mechanics employed under the contract. This requirement prevents federal contractors from under-paying their workers and ensures proper wages are paid.
3. Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) are collectively bargained agreements that decide the wage and benefits to be paid on a project and binding procedures to resolve labor disputes. PLAs help ensure family-sustaining wages.
4. Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs)- CBAs are legally-binding agreements between community groups and developers that outline the community benefits that the developer will deliver.
5. The Black Lung Disability Trust fund provides monthly payments and medical treatment to coal miners disabled by black lung disease. The funding for the Trust Fund comes from a tax on per-ton sales by coal mine operators.  
The tax was cut sharply on January 1, 2019 and has yet to be restored to its previous level.