



Support Clean Energy Workers: Over 600,000 Good Jobs Each Year

The Problem: Since the COVID pandemic began, [nearly 600,000 clean energy workers](#) have lost their jobs. Before the pandemic, clean energy was one of the fastest-growing sectors in the economy, employing [more than 3 million workers](#). Growth in wind and solar power and energy efficiency has been supporting more and more working families, while promoting cleaner air and water and slashing climate pollution. However, the COVID crisis has brought hardship to many clean energy workers, as made clear in an [analysis](#) by E2: “Energy efficiency workers are losing their jobs after being shut out of homes and buildings to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Solar and wind turbine companies are laying off workers as they’re unable to access panels and parts stranded in shut-down factories and as financing disappears.” To tackle this crisis, clean energy workers need economic investment.

The Solution: We urgently need to support clean energy workers by investing in the transition to a 100% clean energy economy. That means expanding tax incentives for wind, solar, battery storage, and other clean energy industries. It means extending loans and grants to launch new renewable energy projects, to connect remote sources of wind and solar to our electricity grid, and to modernize the grid for reductions in energy costs and climate pollution. While supporting jobs for hundreds of thousands of clean energy workers, we also could hire unemployed oil and gas workers to close orphaned and leaking oil and gas wells – a win-win for working families and our climate.

The Jobs: Essential investments in clean energy, as detailed below, would provide **over 647,000 good jobs per year**. That includes over 61,000 manufacturing jobs per year. [Click here for an economic analysis](#) from the Political Economy Research Institute with a table (pg. 13) that details job creation estimates for these clean energy investments.



What Congress Needs to Do:

- **Provide nearly 100,000 jobs per year by extending clean energy tax credits:** Congress needs to invest \$41.5 billion over five years to extend tax credits for wind, solar, battery storage, energy efficiency, and other clean energy sectors, helping to put nearly 100,000 clean energy workers back to work each year. Existing tax credits also should be made refundable and construction and safe harbor deadlines should be extended.
- **Provide over 83,000 jobs per year with a new National Climate Bank:** Congress needs to pass and fully fund the National Climate Bank Act, including \$30 billion for the first five years. This would offer financial backing to shovel-ready clean energy, energy storage, and transmission projects facing financial uncertainty due to the impacts of the COVID crisis.
- **Provide over 190,000 jobs per year by closing orphaned oil and gas wells:** Congress needs to invest \$60 billion over five years to close over 3 million orphaned and leaking oil and gas wells, relieving a burden that falls largely on states. This investment would support unemployed oil and gas workers while reducing pollution.
- **And more...**for a complete list of clean energy investments, [see Sierra Club’s letter to Congress](#) that outlines specific priorities for a bold stimulus package that puts millions of people back to work to build a healthier, more equitable, clean energy economy.