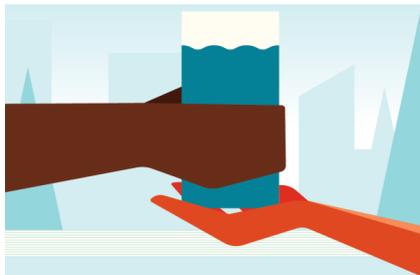




# Millions of Good Jobs: A Plan for Economic Renewal



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# Executive Summary

Tens of millions of people are out of work as unemployment approaches Great Depression levels. One in three families with children [cannot afford adequate food](#). Three million small businesses [expect to close their doors permanently](#). This is the reality of the economic crisis spurred by COVID-19.

To tackle this economic crisis, we cannot follow the Trump fantasy – simply reopen the economy and hope things return to “normal.” “Normal” was fundamentally unjust, unhealthy, and unstable. Thanks to “normal” conditions, millions of people breathe in air pollution that [increases the risks of COVID-19](#), earn as much in one year as Jeff Bezos [makes in 20 seconds](#), and are forced to grapple with increasing climate-related storms, droughts, and fires.

We have to do better than “normal.” We need to put millions of people back to work building a healthier, more equitable, clean energy economy that leaves no one behind. Congress has the power to do just that, by passing a forward-looking stimulus plan focused on not just rebuilding, but renewal.

[A new economic analysis](#) from the Political Economy Research Institute reveals the path forward – with a bold stimulus plan, we could **provide family-sustaining jobs for over 9 million people every year for the next 10 years** while building an economy that fosters cleaner air and water, higher wages, healthier communities, greater equity, and a more stable climate. That includes supporting over 1 million manufacturing jobs each year. Here’s the sectoral breakdown of the 9 million jobs per year:

- 4.6 million jobs per year to upgrade our infrastructure for clean water, clean transportation, and clean energy;
- 3.2 million jobs per year to expand renewable energy;
- Over 700,000 jobs per year to increase energy efficiency; and
- Over 500,000 jobs per year to restore our lands and invest in regenerative agriculture.

This economic renewal plan would help us simultaneously tackle the multiple, mutually reinforcing crises that we face: public health, joblessness, inequity, and climate change. It would reduce the air pollution that is exacerbating COVID-19 risks, particularly in communities of color. It would counteract the gross levels of inequity that the COVID crisis has magnified by ensuring that those hardest hit get priority access to economic and environmental benefits. While putting people back to work, this plan also would put the U.S. on a path to climate sanity by enabling a 45 percent reduction in our climate pollution by 2030, in line with targets set by climate scientists. Here are a few specific examples:

- To bolster our transition to a **100% clean energy economy**, stimulus investments could help many of the [600,000 unemployed clean energy workers](#) get their jobs back, while [over 190,000 unemployed oil and gas workers](#) could be employed each year to close orphaned oil and gas wells.
- A program to exchange gas guzzlers for **affordable, clean electric vehicles** would yield [over 635,000 jobs](#) each year – nearly the entire population of Detroit – including [over 77,000 good manufacturing jobs](#) to produce the vehicles and components.
- [Nearly 400,000 workers](#) could be employed annually to **upgrade every public housing unit, school, hospital, and municipal building** in the nation to support healthier living conditions, lower energy bills, and reduced pollution.
- [Over 350,000 workers](#) could be employed each year to replace lead pipes and secure **clean drinking water**.
- [Over 225,000 people](#) could be employed each year to **protect our wetlands and forests and shield communities from toxic pollution** by restoring depleted ecosystems and polluted Superfund, Brownfield, and coal mine sites.

To employ over 9 million people every year for five years, this stimulus plan would cost less than \$2.9 trillion. That is [less than half](#) the amount that the U.S. government committed in coronavirus spending in just March and April. With the cost of borrowing at rock bottom, this is a small price to pay to offer economic security to millions of unemployed people while charting a path toward a society that is healthier, more just, and less prone to crisis.

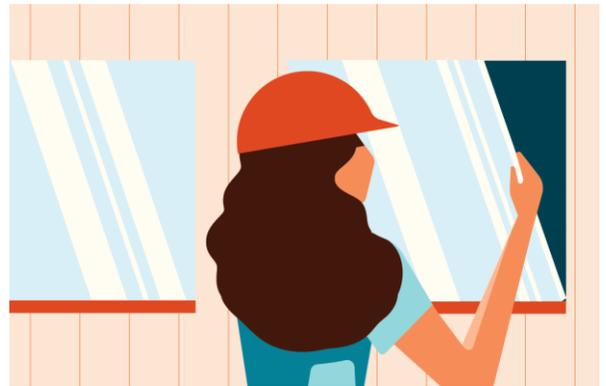
# Economy-Wide Investments

## Economic Renewal Plan: Over 9 Million Good Jobs Each Year

**The Problem:** Due to the COVID-spurred crises of mass unemployment and public health, millions of people currently lie awake at night wondering how to make rent, put food on the table, or afford medical bills. The pandemic also has laid bare the links between the longstanding, mutually reinforcing crises that our society faces, such as racial and economic injustice, economic insecurity, toxic pollution, health vulnerability, crumbling infrastructure, and climate change.

For example, thanks to decades of racial injustice and inadequate investment in clean energy infrastructure, communities of color face disproportionate exposure to fossil fuel pollution. Today, this pollution is subjecting communities of color to [increased risk of death](#) from COVID-19, while also contributing to the climate crisis.

As another example, millions of people live in substandard and overcrowded housing that [makes it difficult to shelter at home](#) to prevent COVID infection – a problem exacerbated by chronic underinvestment in buildings infrastructure and the racist practice of redlining. Meanwhile, the low energy efficiency of these buildings saddles low-income families with high energy bills that exacerbate income inequity, while contributing to the climate pollution that is feeding increasingly intense storms – storms that the same substandard buildings are not equipped to withstand. Our interconnected problems require holistic solutions.



**The Solution:** We cannot and need not choose between addressing job creation or climate change, public health or racial inequity, toxic pollution or crumbling infrastructure. All of these are false choices. With a holistic economic renewal plan, we can put millions of people back to work while tackle today's overlapping crises simultaneously.

Hiring workers to upgrade our water, energy, and transportation infrastructure, for example, would support cleaner air and water, and thus, improved public health, for millions of people – particularly for communities of color and working class families. It also would diminish climate pollution and increase climate resilience, which could support greater equity by reducing the disproportionate climate threats that low-income families and communities of color face.



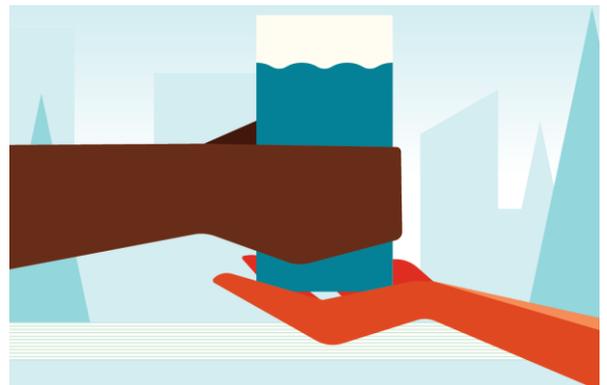
We can only achieve such comprehensive infrastructure upgrades by creating millions of jobs. Properly designed, these jobs could raise wages for working class households, counteracting income inequality. To tackle our concurrent crises, we need such a holistic economic renewal plan – one that puts millions of people back to work while building a healthier, more equitable, clean energy economy.



**The Jobs:** A [new economic analysis](#) from the Political Economy Research Institute shows that a holistic economic renewal plan would provide **9.1 million good jobs every year for 10 years**. The plan includes economy-wide public investments totaling \$580 billion per year, or \$2.9 trillion for the first five years. The plan has two primary components:

- **4.6 million jobs per year to upgrade our infrastructure:** This economic renewal plan starts with a much-needed infrastructure upgrade. The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) currently gives [an overall grade of “D+”](#) to our ailing transportation, energy, water, and natural infrastructure. ASCE estimates that upgrading our infrastructure to a “B” grade would take a public investment of \$2 trillion over 10 years. With additional upgrades (e.g., [expanding broadband access](#) and [fixing leaking gas pipes](#)), the total infrastructure investment becomes \$2.6 trillion over 10 years. These upgrades would support improved health, climate, equity, and jobs outcomes, as spelled out above and in the specific investments detailed in the following sector-by-sector descriptions.
- **4.5 million jobs per year to transition to a clean energy economy:** The second component of the economic renewal plan is a comprehensive investment to meet science-based targets for reducing climate pollution, because our response to one crisis must not leave us vulnerable to another. This investment includes expanding renewable energy, increasing energy efficiency, restoring our land, and investing in regenerative agriculture. A \$3.2 trillion public investment over 10 years in these sectors, when coupled with an equal amount of private investment, would yield an estimated 45 percent reduction in U.S. carbon emissions by 2030, in line with the global emissions reductions goal established by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. This investment covers three areas:
  - A \$2.4 trillion investment over 10 years in renewable energy, providing 3.2 million jobs per year,
  - A \$0.5 trillion investment over 10 years in energy efficiency, providing 0.7 million jobs per year, and
  - A \$0.3 trillion investment over 10 years in land restoration and regenerative agriculture, providing 0.5 million jobs per year.
- Of the 9.1 million total jobs offered each year by this economic renewal plan, **1.1 million jobs per year would be in the manufacturing sector**. This manufacturing growth would support greater income equity, as manufacturing jobs tend to pay higher wages than construction or service-sector jobs and union density in the manufacturing sector is higher than in the private sector overall.

Below is a breakdown of the 21 categories of investment included in this economic renewal plan, with the dollars invested and jobs created for each category, as reflected in the modeling conducted by the Political Economy Research Institute.



<b>Sector</b>	<b>Annual investment (billions USD)</b>	<b>Jobs per year</b>	<b>10-year investment (billions USD)</b>	<b>Total job years over 10 years</b>
<b>Infrastructure: 4.6 million jobs per year</b>				
Surface transportation	110.1	2,268,060	1,101	22,680,600
Water/wastewater	10.5	154,350	105	1,543,500
Electricity	17.7	185,850	177	1,858,500
Airports	4.2	42,840	42	428,400
Inland waterways / marine ports	1.5	19,200	15	192,000
Dams	3.9	72,540	39	725,400
Hazardous and solid waste	0.3	4,590	3	45,900
Levees	7	131,600	70	1,316,000
Public parks and recreation	10.2	216,240	102	2,162,400
Rail	2.9	32,480	29	324,800
Schools	38	790,400	380	7,904,000
Gas pipelines leak repairs	18.3	316,590	183	3,165,900
Broadband	35	353,500	350	3,535,000
<b>Renewable energy: 3.2 million jobs per year</b>				
Wind	108	1,350,700	1,080	13,507,000
Solar	108	1,545,200	1,080	15,452,000
Geothermal	24	307,350	240	3,073,500
<b>Energy efficiency: 0.7 million jobs per year</b>				
Building retrofits	37.5	573,750	375	5,737,500
Industrial efficiency	6.25	100,625	62.5	1,006,250
High-efficiency autos	6.25	53,750	62.5	537,500
<b>Land and agriculture: 0.5 million jobs per year</b>				
Land restoration	10	162,000	100	1,620,000
Agriculture	20	380,000	200	3,800,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>579.6</b>	<b>9,061,615</b>	<b>5,796</b>	<b>90,616,150</b>

# **Cross-Cutting Environmental, Labor, and Equity Standards**

The quality of the jobs created through this economic renewal plan is just as important as the quantity of jobs. Stimulus investments must be subject to high-road labor standards to ensure that the jobs created are family-sustaining careers that offer workers a dignified and meaningful livelihood and lasting economic security. To chart a path to a more equitable society, these jobs must be made accessible to all people. In addition, equitable hiring practices and targeted investments must be used to prioritize job creation, improved health outcomes, and environmental benefits for low-income communities, communities of color, and others who are bearing the brunt of the economic, health, and climate crises. Finally, to yield a healthier and more stable future, stimulus investments also must address climate change and toxic pollution. The materials, operations, and end use of projects must uphold environmental standards that reduce pollution and increase climate resilience for communities.

All investments in this economic renewal plan must uphold the following environmental, labor, and equity standards.

## **Climate and Environmental Standards**

- Investments should meet a baseline climate and environmental test. To qualify for funding, projects should demonstrate that their use will support reduced greenhouse gases, reduced toxic pollution, and/or increased climate resilience.
- The materials and parts used should be subject to Buy Clean standards that reduce industrial pollution, climate resilience standards, and energy efficiency standards (as applicable).
- All construction and related contracts should include requirements to use climate-resilient designs for infrastructure and low-emissions operations.

## **Labor Standards**

- All construction and related contracts should include requirements for Davis Bacon prevailing wages, project labor agreements, a neutrality policy on collective bargaining, and use of registered apprenticeship programs; in addition to preferences for local hire, community-based businesses, and worker cooperatives.
- The materials and parts used should be subject to Buy America and other domestic content policies to support manufacturing job creation.

## **Equity Standards**

- At least 40 percent of infrastructure spending should be invested in low-income communities, communities of color, and communities facing disproportionate impacts from the COVID-19 crisis and/or climate change.
- The share of infrastructure funding that goes to the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and all U.S. territories should be at least proportional to the population of these jurisdictions.
- All construction and related contracts should require community benefit agreements; a mandatory “ban the box” policy to ensure fair employment opportunities for all; hiring preferences for low-income workers, people of color, people with disabilities, and returning citizens; and contracting preferences for businesses led by women and people of color.
- All jobs created should be accessible to undocumented immigrants and paired with a moratorium on deportations and a path to citizenship for those workers.

## **Specific Investments**

In addition to modeling job creation from economy-wide investments, the Political Economy Research Institute modeled the number of jobs that would be created for investments in [39 specific programs](#) that many labor, environmental justice, climate, and other civil society groups have proposed for an economic renewal plan. [Sierra Club's April 2020 letter to Congress on stimulus priorities](#) describes most of these programs, with dollar amounts named for each. For each investment, the analysis from the Political Economy Research Institute estimates the total number of jobs (including the number of manufacturing jobs) that would be created. These programs fall into six sectors: energy, transportation, buildings, manufacturing, water, and lands/outdoors. The investments in these programs would put millions of people back to work to replace lead pipes, build clean and affordable public transit, modernize our grid, build and repair public housing, manufacture clean energy goods, clean up hazardous waste, restore wetlands and forests, and more. Below are some illustrative examples for each of the six sectors.

## 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. To further support clean energy, existing tax credits 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 currently falls largely on states. This investment would support unemployed workers in the oil and gas industry 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.

# Clean Transportation for All: Over 1 Million Good Jobs Each Year

**The Problem:** The transportation sector is a major source of air pollution that contributes to asthma, cancer, and an [increased likelihood of death from COVID-19](#), particularly for communities of color who are disproportionately exposed to such pollution. In addition, the transportation sector is one of the largest and fastest-growing sources of carbon emissions in the U.S., responsible for nearly [30 percent](#) of all U.S. climate pollution. We urgently need clean transportation for all. Thankfully, clean transportation options like electric vehicles and clean public transit have been growing, employing [hundreds of thousands](#) of workers. However, [tens of thousands](#) of clean transportation workers have already lost their jobs due to the COVID crisis, and many more are at risk of unemployment as public transit agencies lose billions of dollars amid historic declines in ridership.

**The Solution:** We urgently need to support clean transportation workers and the continued growth of clean transportation for all. That means investing in clean public transit to ensure safety, cover lost revenues, and expand access to clean and affordable buses, subways, and light rail options. It means making clean electric vehicles affordable and accessible to everyone by offering new rebates to make electric vehicles cheaper, electrifying public buses, and investing in charging infrastructure in our communities. It means investing in bikeable and walkable communities that promote safety, accessible mobility, and public health.

**The Jobs:** Essential investments in clean transportation, as detailed below, would provide **over 1 million good jobs per year**. That includes over 128,000 manufacturing jobs per year. [Click here for an economic analysis](#) from the Political Economy Research Institute with a table (pg. 16) that details job creation estimates for these clean transportation investments.



## **What Congress Needs to Do:**

- **Provide over 635,000 jobs per year by making electric vehicles more affordable:** Congress should pass and fully fund the Clean Cars for America proposal, which would invest \$454 billion over 10 years to replace millions of gas guzzlers with electric vehicles. The proposal includes consumer rebates to lower the cost of electric vehicles, particularly for lower-income families, and incentives to support domestic manufacturing of electric vehicles.
- **Provide 213,000 jobs per year by investing in clean public transit:** Congress needs to increase public transit operational funding by \$50 billion and maintenance funding by \$100 billion over 10 years to support public health measures during the COVID crisis while making up for lost revenues. Estimated COVID-related losses to transit agencies tally between \$26 and \$38 billion, and the estimated transit maintenance backlog totals \$99 billion.
- **Provide 56,000 jobs per year by electrifying school buses and public transit buses:** Congress should invest \$20 billion over five years for school districts and transit systems to replace 60,000 school and public transit buses (about 10% of the national fleet) with domestically manufactured electric vehicles and charging infrastructure.
- **And more...**for a complete list of clean transportation 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.

## Clean Buildings: Over 500,000 Good Jobs Each Year

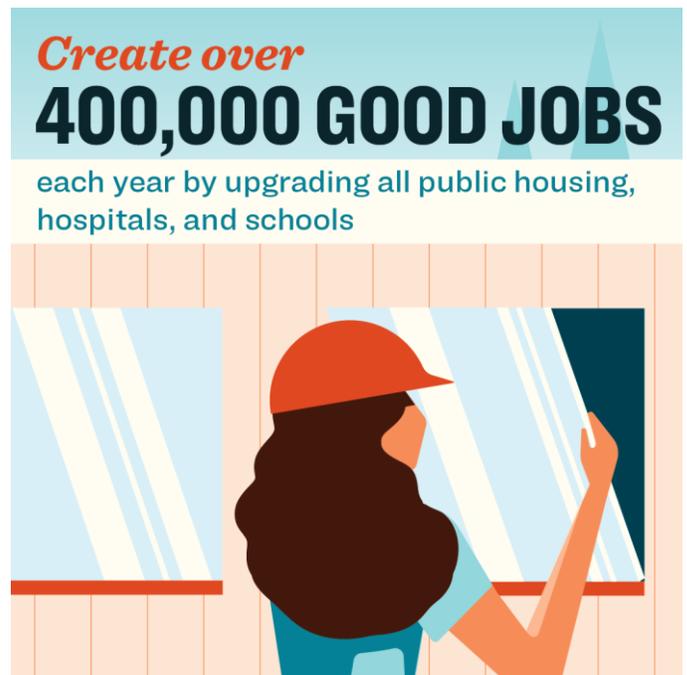
**The Problem:** Too many of our homes, offices, and other buildings are old, inefficient, polluting, costly, vulnerable, and unhealthy. Overcrowded and substandard housing is currently [making it harder](#) for millions of people to shelter at home to prevent COVID-19 infection. Meanwhile, residential and commercial buildings account for nearly [40 percent](#) of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions, due to the burning of oil and gas for heat in some buildings and the inefficient use of energy in most buildings for heating, cooling, lighting, and appliances. Such inefficiency also spells high energy bills – about [one-third](#) of all U.S. households have trouble paying those bills. The burden falls heaviest on low-income families and communities of color, which tend to spend significantly higher shares of their income on electricity – [twice as much](#) as the median household. In addition, many old buildings also contain [indoor air pollutants](#) such as mold that can trigger asthma attacks. Compounding these threats to human health and safety is the fact that many buildings are not equipped to handle climate-related disasters such as increased flooding, extreme heat, or violent storms.

**The Solution:** We urgently need to upgrade our buildings to support public health, reduced emissions, economic security, and climate resilience. That means fully electrifying our homes, schools, hospitals, offices, and other buildings so that they do not need to rely on polluting fossil fuels for heat. It means weatherizing and retrofitting buildings to increase energy efficiency, slash electricity bills, and reduce climate pollution. It means upgrading buildings to withstand climate change and support healthy living and working environments.

**The Jobs:** Essential investments in clean buildings, as detailed below, would provide **over 517,000 good jobs per year**. That includes over 35,000 manufacturing jobs per year. [Click here for an economic analysis](#) from the Political Economy Research Institute with a table (pg. 19) that details job creation estimates for these clean buildings investments.

### **What Congress Needs to Do:**

- **Provide over 230,000 jobs per year to upgrade all public housing:** Congress needs to pass the Green New Deal for Public Housing Act, investing \$172 billion over 10 years to retrofit all U.S. public housing in support of energy efficiency, electrification, rooftop solar, climate resilience, and a healthier living environment. In addition to creating hundreds of thousands of jobs, this investment would improve living conditions for over 2 million people, and cut over [5 million tons of carbon emissions](#) each year.
- **Provide over 165,000 jobs per year to upgrade all schools, hospitals, and municipal buildings:** Congress needs to invest \$61.2 billion over five years to retrofit every school, university, hospital, and municipal building in the country. These building upgrades would create good jobs; improve health standards for hospital patients, health workers, students, and teachers; cut energy costs; reduce pollution; and help tackle climate change.
- **Provide over 92,000 jobs per year to support community-led development:** Congress needs to invest \$30 billion for Community Development Block Grants over five years to expand affordable housing, improve living conditions and public health, and support community-led economic development in low-income neighborhoods.
- **And more...**for a complete list of clean buildings 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.



# Manufacturing Renewal: Nearly 300,000 Good Manufacturing Jobs Each Year

**The Problem:** We are not producing nearly enough of the goods needed for the transition to a 100% clean energy economy. To expedite that transition, and ensure that workers gain from it, we need to invest in increased manufacturing of electric vehicle parts, wind turbine components, energy efficient building materials, and other clean energy goods. Meanwhile, industry remains a significant source of pollution. Too many communities who live outside the fences of U.S. factories endure health problems from industrial pollution, including the type of air pollution that is [increasing the likelihood of death from COVID-19](#), particularly in communities of color. Industry also is [the largest source of U.S. climate pollution](#), when accounting for factories' burning of fossil fuels, chemical processes, and consumption of electricity. While climate pollution from other sectors is expected to decline or remain constant, industrial climate pollution is [expected to rise](#) even further. In addition, the U.S. imports as much industrial climate pollution as it produces. Each year, over [1.4 gigatons](#) of climate pollution is emitted abroad just to produce the manufactured goods that we import – the same amount of climate pollution produced by [all U.S. factories combined](#).

**The Solution:** We urgently need to invest in a manufacturing sector that is compatible with the transition to a 100% clean energy economy. That means using government purchasing, grants and loans, and other investments to spur increased manufacturing of clean energy goods. It means rewarding factories that slash pollution and investing in technologies to reduce industrial emissions. It means establishing institutions to support a swift and coherent transition to sustainable production of strategic goods while investing in manufacturing workers.

**The Jobs:** Over 287,000 good manufacturing jobs would be generated each year just to produce the goods required by the specific energy, transportation, buildings, water, and land investments detailed in this economic renewal plan. Direct investments in clean manufacturing, as detailed below, could further increase job creation. [Click here for an economic analysis](#) from the Political Economy Research Institute with a table (pg. 22) that details job creation estimates for direct investments in clean manufacturing.



## What Congress Needs to Do:

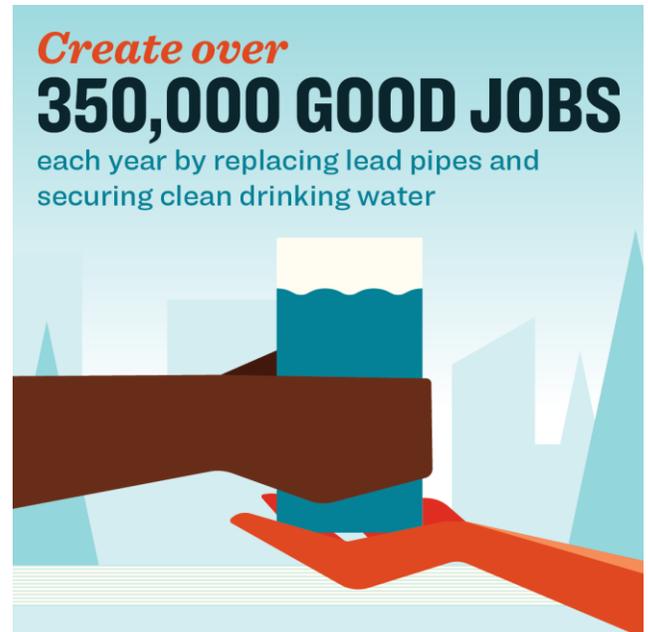
- **Provide hundreds of thousands of jobs via government purchases:** Congress needs to expand federal, state, and local government procurement of domestically manufactured clean energy goods, including electric vehicles for government fleets; components for government-owned public transit and passenger rail; energy efficient construction materials and appliances for government buildings; and renewable energy, battery storage, and grid modernization components for federal and municipal-owned energy systems. Every \$1 billion of government purchases would create 13,000 jobs if spent on clean transportation goods, 11,000 jobs if spent on clean energy goods, and 10,600 jobs if spent on goods for clean buildings.
- **Provide over 46,000 jobs per year by expanding grants and incentives for clean energy manufacturing:** Congress needs to invest \$3 billion over five years for retooling grants under Section 132 of the Energy Independence and Security Act, and invest \$20 billion over five years in the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing program, to expand manufacturing of electric vehicles and components. Congress also should invest \$3 billion over five years in the Advanced Manufacturing Tax Credit under section 48C of the Internal Revenue Code to boost manufacturing of renewable energy, energy storage, and energy efficiency goods.
- **Provide an economic development and industrial bank to support manufacturing jobs:** Congress needs to create and capitalize an economic development and industrial bank to provide preferential loans to manufacturers to produce goods needed for clean energy, clean transportation, clean buildings, and clean water, and to invest in reductions in greenhouse gases and toxic emissions from industrial production.
- **And more...**for a complete list of clean manufacturing 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.

## Clean Water for All: Over 500,000 Good Jobs Each Year

**The Problem:** Hand washing is an essential part of preventing the spread of COVID-19. Yet, amid the COVID crisis, access to clean running water is out of reach for millions of families. Even before the crisis, an estimated [15 million people](#) had experienced water shutoffs. Now, as unemployment grows and people struggle to pay utility bills, utilities are actually shutting off people's water – during a public health crisis. Meanwhile, far too many communities still do not have access to clean drinking water. In nearly [3,000 communities](#), lead poisoning is more than twice as severe as in Flint, Michigan – for many, that's due to toxic water from lead pipes. In addition, in cities across the country, major storms – which are intensifying with climate change – are causing destructive flooding, sewage overflows, and toxic runoff, thanks to old and overburdened wastewater systems.

**The Solution:** We urgently need to invest in clean water for all. That means halting all water shutoffs and reconnecting all households that have been disconnected from running water. It means replacing lead pipes in homes, schools, and buildings throughout the entire country and removing other water pollutants so that no one has to question whether their tap water is safe to drink. It means replacing wastewater systems to reduce flooding and toxic runoff in hard-hit communities.

**The Jobs:** Essential investments in clean water, as detailed below, would provide **over 564,000 good jobs per year**. That includes over 66,000 manufacturing jobs per year. [Click here for an economic analysis](#) from the Political Economy Research Institute with a table (pg. 25) that details job creation estimates for these clean water investments.



### What Congress Needs to Do:

- **Provide over 356,000 jobs per year to secure clean drinking water:** Congress needs to invest \$45 billion over 10 years in the Reducing Lead in Drinking Water program to replace lead pipes and protect our children and communities from the damaging impacts of toxic lead pollution (this would provide 68,400 jobs per year). To further secure clean water for our communities, Congress needs to invest \$100 billion over five years in the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (this would provide 288,000 jobs per year).
- **Provide over 59,000 jobs per year to halt water shutoffs and restore connections:** Congress needs to invest at least \$5 billion this year to fund emergency relief and a nationwide moratorium on shutoffs of water for the duration of the crisis. This includes funding the costs for utilities to restore and maintain water service for homeowners and renters.
- **Provide over 56,000 jobs per year to upgrade wastewater infrastructure:** Congress needs to invest \$6 billion for wastewater infrastructure over the next 18 months to prevent sewage overflows, prevent flooding, and stop runoff pollution.
- **And more...**for a complete list of clean water 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.

## Pollution-Free Communities, Lands, & Parks: Over 200,000 Good Jobs Each Year

**The Problem:** Fifty-three million people live within three miles of [1,836 “Superfund” sites](#) – places contaminated by toxic pollution and hazardous waste, which [pose disproportionate threats to communities of color](#). In addition, over [5 million people](#) in Appalachia live within a mile of an abandoned coal mine with dangerous contamination. As we grapple with the COVID-19 crisis, such hazards only compound public health threats for many communities. While many of the places we live are contaminated with pollution, many of the places we love are disappearing or out of reach. Louisiana loses the equivalent of [a football field of wetlands every 100 minutes](#), exposing Gulf Coast communities to increased climate risks. Meanwhile, the Trump administration is trying to dismantle [protections for our public lands](#). Such protected areas also are too often inaccessible – [fewer than half](#) of all people in the U.S. live within walking distance of a park, as neighborhoods divided by race and class put the benefits of the outdoors out of reach for many low-income families and communities of color.

**The Solution:** We urgently need economic investments to protect the places we live and love. That means cleaning up toxic pollution at contaminated sites to support healthy communities. It means hiring local workers to restore our wetlands and forests. And it means investing in projects to improve our parks and support equitable access to the outdoors.

**The Jobs:** Essential investments in pollution-free communities, land restoration, and access to the outdoors, as detailed below, would provide **over 226,000 good jobs per year**. [Click here for an economic analysis](#) from the Political Economy Research Institute with a table (pg. 28) that details job creation estimates for these outdoors investments.

### What Congress Needs to Do:

- **Provide nearly 100,000 jobs per year by cleaning up polluted communities:** Congress needs to invest \$20 billion over five years for Superfund site cleanup to protect communities from toxic pollution, with funding set aside for workforce training and renewable energy development. In addition, Congress should invest \$10 billion in the Brownfields program over five years to clean up contaminated sites in support of community-driven economic development, while protecting against community displacement.
- **Provide over 25,000 jobs per year by restoring our wetlands, forests, and parks:** Congress needs to invest \$10 billion over 10 years to fund the creation of a Stewardship Corps to hire local workers to restore forests, wetlands, and other ecosystems, as outlined in the Climate Stewardship Act. In addition, Congress should fund the National Park Service’s Outdoor Recreation and Legacy Partnership program at \$1 billion over 10 years to support park improvement projects that boost economic competitiveness, job training, and equitable access to the outdoors.
- **Provide over 13,000 jobs per year in Appalachia by restoring abandoned coal mines:** Congress needs to pass and fully fund the RECLAIM Act and the Abandoned Mine Land Reauthorization Act to spur economic development in hard-hit mining communities by restoring land and water resources impacted by coal mining. Congress should invest \$10 billion over 10 years to clear the entire backlog of abandoned mine restoration projects.
- **And more...**for a complete list of land and outdoors 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.

