



NY RENEWS

Passing the Climate and Community Protection Fund Would Create More Than 90,000 Jobs Across New York

*If passed and fully funded, the Climate and Community Protection Fund
would create thousands of good, green union jobs to replace lost
fossil fuel jobs statewide.*

Introduction

In 2022, the U.S. oil and gas industry employed 700,000 fewer workers than it did six years before—a decline of over 20 percent. In the year 2020 alone, the industry laid off more than 160,000 workers nationwide as the COVID-19 pandemic crashed energy prices.¹

As the fossil fuel industry continues to cave in on itself, we'll need to quickly create new jobs in the renewable and clean energy sectors in New York and nationwide. And, as demand for renewable energy continues to grow across the country and in New York State, what were previously considered “secure” jobs in fossil-fuel-dependent industries will continue to disappear. As we move away from health-harming fossil fuels and toward renewable energy to power our economy, it is vital that we continue to support and employ people in former fossil-fuel industries—many of whom live and work at the frontlines of the climate crisis, and who often experience serious health challenges due to working in polluting, fossil fuel facilities.

Protecting Workers and Communities

NY Renews' Climate, Jobs & Justice Package (CJJP) is a legislative roadmap designed to rapidly and effectively implement NY's Climate Act, making our state healthier and more equitable for all—especially for Black, brown, indigenous, low-income, and working-class communities. Within the CJJP, one key bill—the **Climate Community Protection Fund** (CCPF)—establishes a dedicated fund with specialized accounts within the New York State finance law to fund the work of Climate Act implementation, ensure climate justice for disadvantaged communities, promise support to work families to weather the climate crisis, and guarantee just transition for existing and new workers in the green economy. The CCPF would also help create **90,000 good jobs** statewide.

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/27/business/energy-environment/oil-gas-renewable-energy-jobs.html>

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Job creation in New York State

Currently, fossil fuel corporations are raking in record profits in a volatile market while intentionally price-gouging consumers. However, recent projections issued by New York's Just Transition Working Group show that renewable energy jobs are anticipated to increase across the state. By funding and implementing a just transition to renewable energy, New York could create 200,000 jobs by 2030. Many workers across sectors face the risk of job displacement if their needs are not addressed by the state.²

Based on present job output projections by sector, passing and fully funding the CCPF alone—which means investing at least \$10 billion a year, with increases every year (per NYSERDA's scoping plan integration analysis)—would help produce approximately **90,116 jobs in the first year**.³ As long as New York funded the law year after year, these jobs would be maintained. That means the CCPF would:

- Directly create an estimated **44,455 jobs** in wind and solar installation, energy-efficient building retrofits, electric vehicle manufacturing, public transit, and more
- Indirectly create an estimated **17,356 jobs** in design, transportation, supply chain management, and related industries
- Induce the creation of an estimated **28,305 jobs** in agriculture, transportation, and food service, among others

The Climate and Community Protection Fund, along with the state's Climate Action Fund, can direct substantial revenue to help meet our emission reduction targets and transition New York State's powerful economy into one that runs on clean and renewable energy.

Modeled on the state's successful Environmental Protection Fund (Section 92-S of State Finance Law), the CCPF makes state climate funding transparent, enabling the legislature to require reporting about how funds are used. This model also provides flexibility, allowing key stakeholders across regions, constituencies, and industries to work side-by-side with the legislature each year to appropriate funding to key agencies and programs that promise to deliver climate, jobs, and justice for New Yorkers.

² Climate Justice Working Group: <https://climate.ny.gov/resources/climate-justice-working-group/>

³For a line-item breakdown of the programs and initiatives funded in these categories, [please see the Appendix](#).

The CCPF would fund energy-efficiency improvements in buildings, help update our energy infrastructure, and expand public transit; direct grants to community organizations for grassroots-led energy planning and reducing local emissions; and help low- and moderate-income families lower their energy bills while lowering health-harming emissions. Finally, the CCPF's gold-standard labor provisions will ensure that state funding supports renewable energy projects with prevailing construction wages, labor peace harmony for operating services, and best value procurement framework for manufacturing bids.

New York's Scoping Plan for our Climate Future

New York's climate scoping plan, passed by the state's Climate Action Council in December 2022, included some key provisions for workforce and job development that would help protect workers who could experience job disruption and displacement. These include:⁴

- Direct displaced worker support to ensure that current and former fossil fuel workers benefit from the transition to clean energy
- Ensuring the application of labor standards across all sectors and projects, helping create good union jobs, and helping the state attract greater financial benefits to New York
- Targeted financial support for businesses and related entities to ensure contracting and procurement opportunities in the transition away from fossil fuels
- Bolstering training curriculums and programs focused on opportunities for people from underserved communities that meet employer hiring needs
- Expanded comprehensive career pathway programs for both existing and future workers
- Community engagement, stakeholder input, and market assessments to continue stakeholder engagement to identify and assess industry skills gaps, employee demand, as well as curriculum and training needs

Passing and fully funding the CCPF would help New York State deliver on a number of these provisions. A just transition to renewable energy does not destroy jobs; it creates hundreds of thousands of new ones. It retrains impacted workers, helps communities keep services and schools, expands and updates public transportation with energy-efficient buses and trains, and provides opportunities for cooperative and worker-owned businesses powered by clean, renewable energy.⁵

⁴ Climate Action Council Final Scoping Plan; Chapter 7, pg 71-92

⁵ <http://www.labor4sustainability.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/The-Huntley-Experiment.pdf>