
The paper was released by the Labor-Energy Partnership (LEP), a joint effort by both organizations to develop policy solutions for a 21st Century energy system that creates and preserves quality jobs while tackling the climate crisis. The LEP is jointly chaired by Richard L. Trumka, President of the AFL-CIO, and Ernest J. Moniz, the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of EFI, who served as the 13th U.S. Secretary of Energy from 2013-2017.

The LEP Framework paper provides a comprehensive overview of a suite of climate and labor policies, supported by the AFL-CIO and EFI, that will accelerate America’s transition to a low carbon economy while preserving and creating access to high quality jobs. The paper provides a summary of the importance of each initiative from a climate perspective and the jobs’ benefit it will provide American communities.

“The Labor Energy Partnership is coming to the table with solutions that meet the climate challenge with a focus on good jobs. At this time of economic crisis, we need to put as many people as possible to work as soon as possible,” said Trumka.

“Our roadmap is based on the reality that there are no silver bullet solutions for net-zero emissions by mid-century” said Moniz. “We need all-of-the-above solutions, broad coalitions, and major advances in energy innovation to reach our mid-century goals. This Labor-Energy Partnership framework offers a roadmap for that transition.”

The LEP will hold workshops and conduct stakeholder outreach through the fall, with its initial areas of focus centered on accelerating the pace of offshore wind, the development of a national plan to deploy carbon capture technology, and opportunities for near-term job creation.

“These technologies are crucial for winning the fight against climate change,” said Elizabeth H. Shuler, Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO. “American innovation on technologies manufactured and installed by highly-skilled union labor offers the best chance for success.”

The framework identifies 10 key areas necessary for creating new jobs and advancing social equity in a deeply decarbonized economy:

1. A national action plan for the deployment of carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration technology;
2. A priority energy infrastructure analysis that provides a roadmap for key energy infrastructure needs, financing mechanisms, and approval and permitting pathways;
3. Policies needed to site and permit new electricity transmission projects in the near-term;
4. Options for safe and affordable preservation of the existing nuclear fleet and the deployment of next generation nuclear technologies;
5. Development of technology and policy pathways for the use of natural gas consistent with meeting climate goals;
6. An exploration of the economic challenges and costs and benefits of developing hydrogen as an alternative fuel for the transportation, power, and industrial sectors;
7. The expansion of energy efficiency finance mechanisms and policy recommendations to enable the full utilization of energy efficient technologies in commercial and residential buildings, industrial processes, and transportation;
8. An assessment of the capacity of the United States to mine, process, and manufacture the critical minerals and materials necessary for the domestic production of low-carbon technologies including, but not limited to, rare earths, lithium, cobalt, copper, nickel, and palladium;

9. An analysis of the offshore wind supply chain, including its raw material requirements, manufacturing technologies, and geographical differences between the East Coast, West Coast, and Great Lakes’ resources and policy options to encourage domestic manufacturing; and,

10. A roadmap for implementing natural and engineered carbon dioxide removal at scale.

More details on the LEP can be found in this fact sheet.

About the Energy Futures Initiative:
The Energy Futures Initiative advances science-based solutions to climate change through evidence-based analysis, thought leadership, and coalition-building. Under the leadership of Ernest J. Moniz, the 13th U.S. Secretary of Energy, the Washington-based EFI conducts rigorous research to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy through innovation in technology, policy, and business models. EFI maintains editorial independence from its sponsors. www.energyfuturesinitiative.org.

About the AFL-CIO:
The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) is comprised of fifty-five national and international unions that together represent more than 12.5 million workers. The affiliates of the AFL-CIO have represented workers in the energy sector for over 125 years, and continue to set the standard for family and community-supporting energy jobs. https://aflcio.org/

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