CREATING JOBS THROUGH THE CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION

CLIMATE CHANGE REQUIRES BOLD ACTION

The United States is already facing impacts from climate change, and so is the rest of the world. From droughts to heatwaves, extreme flooding and climate-fueled hurricanes, communities are impacted in devastating ways. In 2022 alone, the U.S. had 18 separate billion-dollar disasters, with the total estimated costs from all disasters totaling $165 billion. And within the last year alone, Contra Costa County has felt the impacts from wildfires, prolonged drought, heatwaves, and extreme flooding. Not only do these climate impacts negatively affect the economy and disrupt daily life, they also have detrimental impacts to our health. Health effects include worsening mental health, increased rates of respiratory and cardiovascular disease, physical injuries from extreme events, disruptions to treatment for chronic diseases, and changing prevalence of infectious diseases.

In order to prevent the worst impacts of climate change, we must quickly transition away from fossil fuels and their polluting emissions. Already we have seen what bold action can accomplish. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the CHIPS and Science Act provided billions in funding for clean energy research and development, climate science advancements, and electrification. With the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) in 2022, we provided historic investment to address climate change. Nearly $370 billion was provided to advance clean energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote adaptation and resilience measures. With the implementation of the programs and funding from the IRA alone, we could see up to 40% emissions reductions by 2030. The past two years showed how much progress the U.S. can achieve, and we shouldn't stop there.

TRANSITIONING FROM FOSSIL FUELS WILL CREATE JOBS

Transitioning away from carbon-intensive energy sources will result in geographically concentrated costs for communities where fossil fuels are a current cornerstone of the local economy, employment, and public revenues. As the county with the 7th largest oil refining capacity in the U.S., Contra Costa County's workers will be significantly impacted. In fact, in 2016, the local Chevron Refinery employed 3,456 residents, making it the largest employer in the area.

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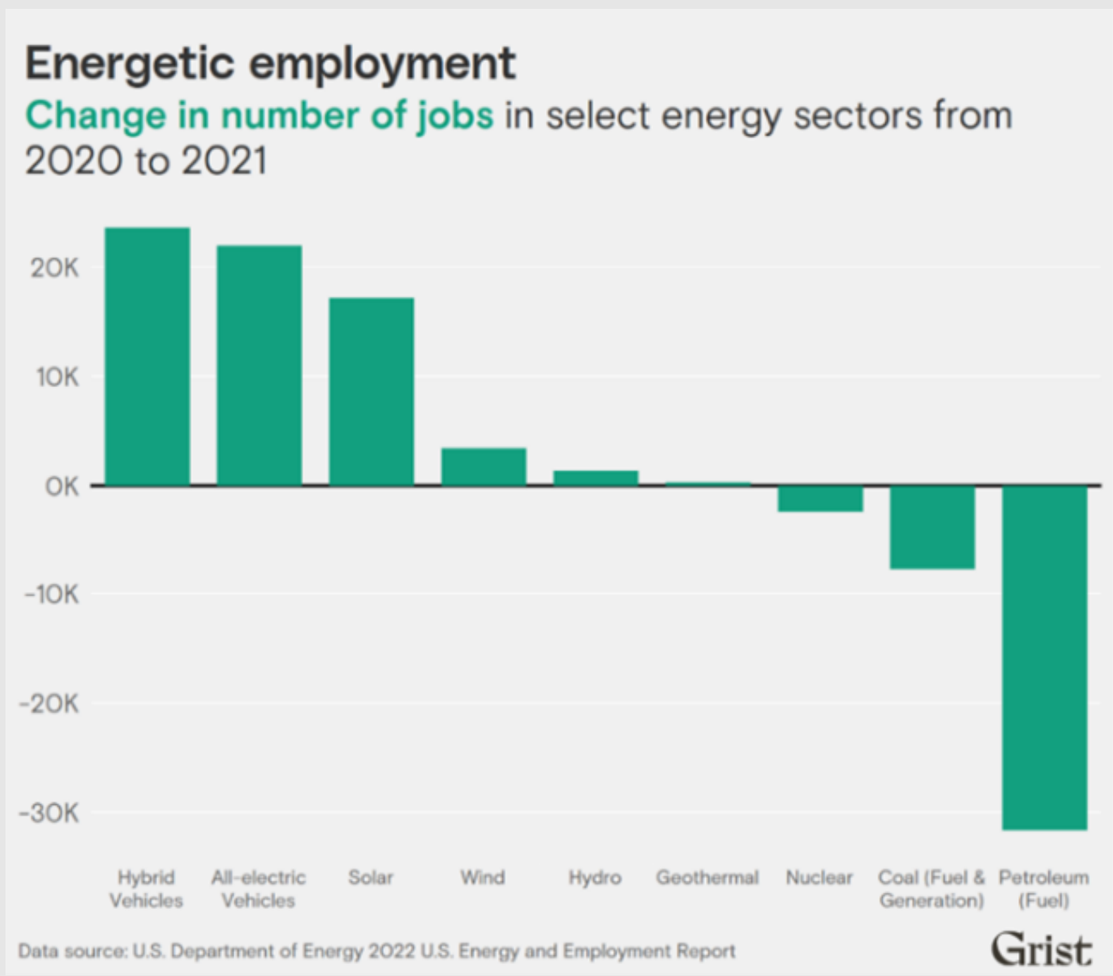
TRANSITIONING FROM FOSSIL FUELS WILL CREATE JOBS

The transition away from the traditional fossil fuel industry is already underway. As part of the recent historic climate and clean energy investments through the BIL, CHIPS and Science Act, and IRA, workforce development, supporting communities in transition, and creating good-paying jobs was a large focus. Investments included bonus tax incentives for clean vehicles if developers met wage and apprenticeship requirements, tax incentives to attract clean energy and manufacturing to communities in transition, energy efficiency training and education programs, and workforce development and training for zero-emission vehicle maintenance.

- In 2021, there were over 3 million jobs in net-zero emissions-aligned sectors, which made up over 40% of total energy jobs. Renewable energy generation jobs grew by over 21,000 jobs, with solar having the largest gains. At the same time, coal power energy generations jobs declined.
- California is a leader in clean energy jobs: over 512,000 people are employed in the clean energy sector in the state, and one in every seven clean energy sector jobs in the country is located in California.
- Every dollar of investment in renewable energy creates three times more jobs than investment in the fossil fuel industry. The IRA alone is projected to create more than 9 million clean energy and climate-related jobs in the next decade, and in the months since its passage, over 100,000 new jobs have already been created.
- In addition to clean energy jobs, proactively preparing for and building resilience against climate-fueled disasters will create thousands of construction, planning, and design jobs. For every $1 billion spent on flood protection projects, an estimated 40,000 jobs will be created.
- California is home to the Salton Sea, one of the largest known deposits of lithium in the world, which could power enough batteries for 50 million EVs. This can be utilized effectively, with strong health and safety protections, to bring more mining and manufacturing jobs to Californians.
- Supporting the transition of fossil fuel sector-dependent communities is important. A quarter of the U.S. counties with the greatest potential for wind and solar productions are current fossil fuel hubs, highlighting the potential of some counties to transition towards clean energy development.



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CONGRESSMAN DESAULNIER'S LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

In addition to the dozens of meetings the Congressman has had with national and local experts, below are his recent legislative efforts to promote the transition away from fossil fuels while prioritizing the wellbeing and prosperity of the workforce.

- **Clean Corridors Act, passed as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law:**
  - Provides funding for electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure projects along highways, which will generate and support many jobs across the EV sector along interstate systems.
- **Protecting Workers for a Clean Future Act:**
  - Establishes a grant program through the Department of Labor to assist local governments in developing plans to transition workers in fossil fuel industries to more sustainable industries
- **Jobs for a Carbon Free Transportation System Act:**
  - Prioritizes low-carbon, smart, inter-connected corridors, and provides funding for EV infrastructure development, generating many jobs across the low-carbon industry sector
  - Reinvests in public transportation through high density transit-oriented development;
  - Provides community-based approaches to worker support and training.