The Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA) sets a bold vision for Illinois’s 100% renewable energy future and charts an equitable course that lifts up workers and families. CEJA dramatically expands career development and wealth building programs and prepares us for the transitions that lie ahead. Its dedication to climate and energy justice cuts across all sectors of the energy economy to ensure Black and Brown communities and communities of color benefit in the clean energy future. These fact sheets each represent one core component of CEJA - we encourage you to explore the entire series.

**CLEAN JOBS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE**

**CREATING A DIVERSE AND EQUITABLE CLEAN ENERGY WORKFORCE**

The Clean Energy Jobs Act puts workers first. Its programs and initiatives are designed to ensure that the benefits of a thriving clean energy economy are shared by all Illinoisians. It builds on the successes from previous energy bills while remaining clear-eyed about the ways prior efforts have failed to build an equitable and diverse clean energy sector. CEJA recognizes and addresses structural, historical, and institutional barriers faced by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and low-income communities and job seekers and directs workforce development resources to counteract those barriers. CEJA dedicates nearly $100 million each year towards workforce development and Illinois Solar for All.

**CREATES AND CONNECTS CLEAN JOBS WORKFORCE HUBS**

Provides $26 million per year to create a network of workforce development hubs that provide direct support - from community education to workforce training to career placement - for BIPOC, low-income, and environmental justice communities, and for former fossil fuel workers.

Workforce development programs will be administered through 16 workforce hub sites across the state, including sites in the South Side of Chicago, the Southwest Side of Chicago, Waukegan, Rockford, Aurora, Joliet, Peoria, Champaign, Danville, Decatur, Carbondale, East St. Louis, and Alton. The remaining three workforce hub sites will be selected during CEJA’s implementation.

Convenes community representatives, labor organizations, state officials, and education leaders to build a comprehensive and standardized clean energy curriculum for workforce development programs.
Prioritizes equitable hiring and ownership

Gives companies meeting specified equity actions priority access to renewable energy, energy efficiency, and electric vehicle incentives. An equity point score system is used in competitive procurements and through program set-asides to reward companies that take some or all of the following actions: hire a minority workforce, are a disadvantaged business enterprise, meet equitable subcontracting requirements, hire workforce hub training graduates, are participants in the entrepreneurship and contractor incubator, are small businesses, have labor peace agreements, and create community benefits agreements.

How is it paid for?

The Energy Community Reinvestment Fund collects money through a small fee on fossil-fuel pollution and a 6% Coal Severance Fee on coal extraction. The fund supports the workforce programs, as well as the just transition in former fossil fuel communities in other parts of CEJA.

Why is it urgent?

We have created a thriving clean energy workforce in Illinois since the passage of the Future Energy Jobs Act in 2016. But this workforce does not currently reflect the diversity of Illinois, and key barriers to entry remain. CEJA’s programs and initiatives will empower workers and entrepreneurs who currently lack easy access to the energy sector, avoiding a situation where the renewable energy economy perpetuates current racial and socio-economic disparities.

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