



Just Transition and the Clean Energy Jobs Act



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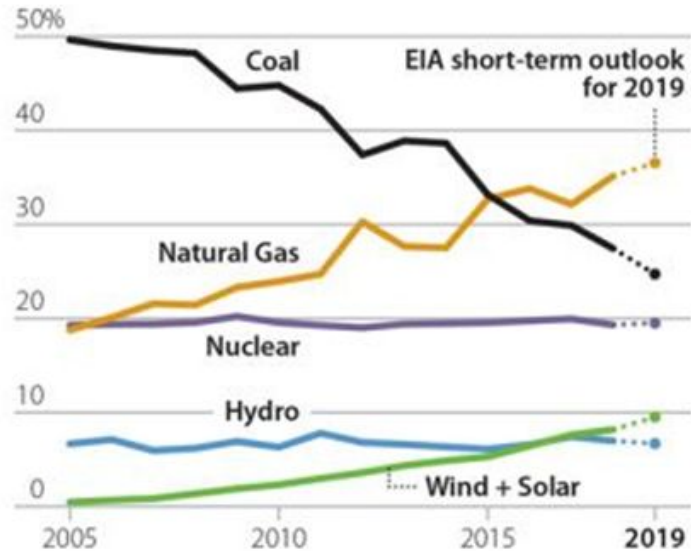


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Energy in Transition



**Fuel Share for Electric Power Generation
(Utility Scale, All Sectors)**



Source: Energy Information Administration (STEO, March 2019)

Source: Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis

- **“Coal is on its way out.”**
-Vistra Energy Corp. CEO Curtis Morgan, April 2019
- Half of the coal plants in IL have closed since 2009
- Nationwide, 37% of coal plants have closed since 2007
- An aging coal fleet, market forces, and climate concerns are driving the transition away from coal



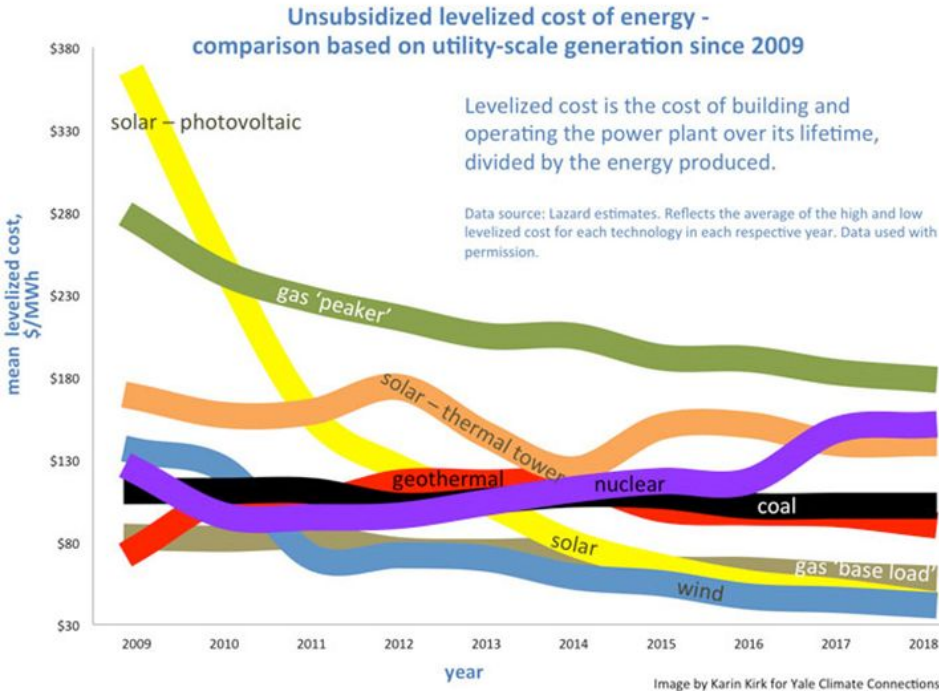
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Energy in Transition



- Wind and solar prices have fallen 70% and 89% respectively in the last decade, and they are now the cheapest sources of new energy.
- Illinois' Future Energy Jobs Act has laid the groundwork for a new energy economy in Illinois
- Illinois' solar workforce grew 37% in 2018 despite a nationwide decrease



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Vistra to shutter 4 Illinois coal plants, totaling over 2,000 MW



Utility Dive

Peabody to Close Coal Mine Amid Price Drop

The plan to shut an Illinois mine and processing plant adds to a steady drumbeat of coal operations shutting down due to declining demand

By [Alexander Gladstone](#) and [Jonathan Randles](#)

Oct. 15, 2019 12:17 pm ET

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Peabody Energy Corp said Monday it plans to shutter a mine and coal processing facility in Saline County, Ill. due to “uneconomic mining conditions” as U.S. coal producers continue to face depressed pricing and competitive pressure from other energy sources.

The Wall Street Journal



- Vistra closed the Hennepin, Havana, Duck Creek (Canton), and Coffeen Coal Plants in fall 2019.
- Vistra’s Edwards Coal Plant will close before 2022 and rest of fleet is at risk of closure
- Peabody Wildcat Hills Mine & Processing Plant shuttered in Saline County, fall 2019
- Coal mining is expected to decline in IL as well (2019 IEEFA report)

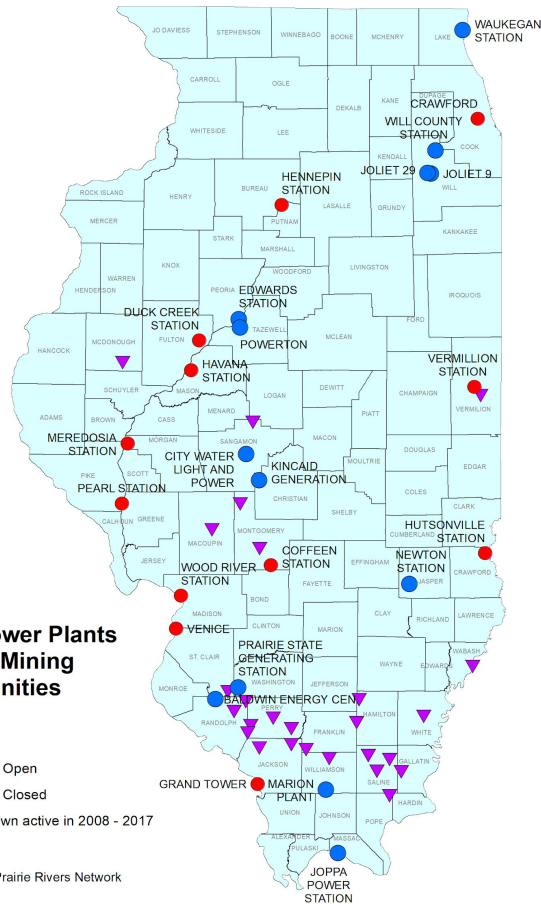


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Coal Fired Power Plants and Coal Mining Communities

Legend

- Coal Plant - Open
- Coal Plant - Closed
- ▼ IL Mining Town active in 2008 - 2017

Map Created by Prairie Rivers Network

- ~300 Jobs Lost with four 2019 Vistra Coal Plant Closures
- ~225 Jobs Lost at Peabody Mine & Plant in 2019
- Loss of significant tax revenue for counties & towns:
 - School Districts
 - Local employees and services
 - Police and fire departments & pension funds
- Challenges include: Regional concentration of closures, small/rural communities, historic boom & bust, low income



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**Vistra CEO
2018 Compensation
\$13,000,000+**

**67% increase from
2017**

UTILITY DIVE Deep Dive Opinion Podcasts Library Events Topics

**Vistra, greens at odds over Illinois
solar+storage bill that would
preserve coal plants**



Credit: Flickr/Nick Humphries

- Vistra is taking care of its own investors and Texas based executives, but not the communities and workers they are leaving behind
- Vistra's Coal Bailout Bill ...Vistra wants Illinois ratepayers to bailout their remaining coal plants



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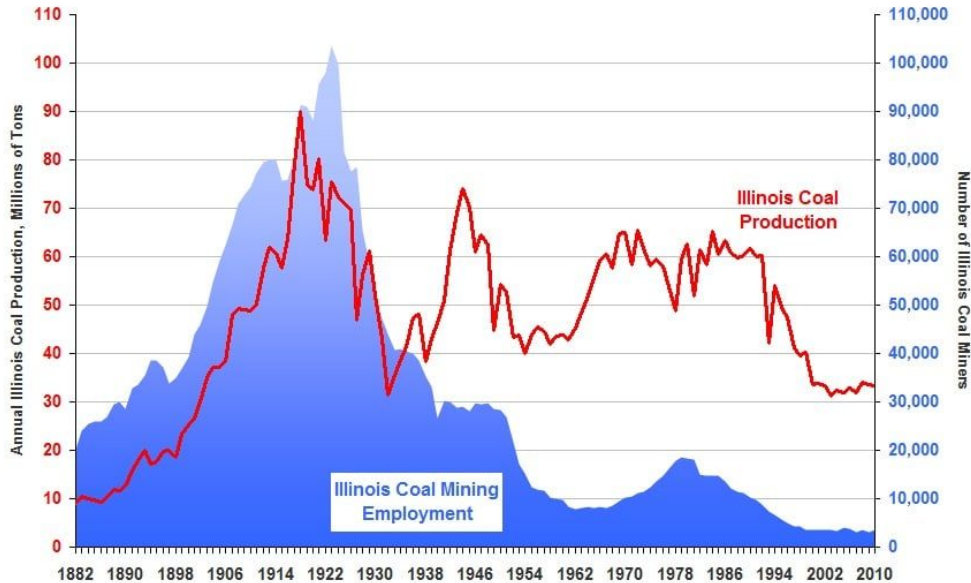


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Boom or Bust: Communities & Workers Left Behind



Coal Mining Jobs Lost to Mechanization in Illinois, 1882-2010



*Data provided by Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Mines and Minerals. Chart produced by Prairie Rivers Network, January 2012



Photo credit: The Southern Illinoisan



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A Just Transition



A **Just Transition** is a set of principles, processes, and practices that:

- are vision-led, unifying and place-based
- build power to shift from an extractive economy to a local regenerative economy
- redress past harms and create new relationships of power for the future through reparations
- ensure a community's self determination over its own future



Above: Clean Energy Event at the IL Coal Museum in Gillespie.
Photo Credit: Prairie Rivers Network

Definition from Climate Justice Alliance's *Just Transition Principles*



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Coal to Clean Energy: New Opportunities in Peoria



A unique example, but an inspiration

The settlement will fund:

- local **workforce development**
- **electric school and transit buses** to replace older diesel buses
- **efficiency upgrades** in low-income homes
- **solar panels** on schools, community and government buildings
- **lung health education** and medical interventions

“To have a successful conclusion like this is unique and precedent-setting. It’s something that offers a policy framework that our policy makers should be looking at,” said Christine Nannicelli, senior campaign representative for the Sierra Club.

Not-for-profits get \$8.6M from Vistra settlement

15 groups will receive money from agreement with Edwards coal plant

By Leslie Renken
Journal Star

PEORIA — The Romain Arts & Culture Community Center in Peoria is one of 15 not-for-profit organizations awarded a piece of the \$8.6 million settlement from a lawsuit instigated by three environmental organizations against Vistra Energy, the owner of the E.D. Edwards coal plant.

The arts center will receive \$276,480 to install solar panels on the 100-year-old school building it inhabits. This winter, its first in the building, the organization has spent between \$1,400 to \$1,500 a month for heating, and it isn't even using all the school's rooms yet.

“Solar panels will save us hundreds of thousands of dollars, and all the money we save will be allocated to programming,” said Jonathon Romain II after a news conference at Zion Baptist Church Thursday morning. Romain's father, artist Jonathon Romain, founded the art center with his wife, Nikki Romain. The not-for-profit organization provides



The E.D. Edwards coal-burning power plant on Illinois Route 24. (MATT DAYHOFF/JOURNAL STAR)

a variety of programming to the community, with a focus on children who need a safe environment with constructive programming after school and on weekends.

It's one example of the impactful work being done by not-for-profits in the Peoria area that the committee that allocated the grants wanted to support.

“The winning proposals

we are announcing today will fund local workforce development, electric school and transit buses to replace older diesel buses, emergency efficiency upgrades in low income homes, solar panels on schools, community and government buildings, and lung health education and medical interventions,” said Christine Nannicelli, senior campaign representative

for the Sierra Club, before announcing grant recipients at the news conference.

The money was allocated with the aim of addressing a variety of issues related to the E.D. Edwards plant, from the health effects of pollution produced by the coal fired plant to how the loss of jobs might affect the

See VISTRA, A8



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How does the transitioning energy economy impact your life?

Who is impacted the most by the transitioning energy economy?
Locally? Globally?

Who benefits if we stick to business as usual?



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