Just Transition and the Clean Energy Jobs Act
Energy in Transition

• “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

Source: Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis

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

- 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.
- Coal mining is expected to decline in IL as well (2019 IEEFA report).

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

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.
• ~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
Vistra CEO
2018 Compensation
$13,000,000+
67% increase from 2017

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.
Boom or Bust: Communities & Workers Left Behind

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


Photo credit: The Southern Illinoisan

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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
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.
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?