

# THE CLEAN ENERGY JOBS ACT

SB1718 (CASTRO) / HB804 (WILLIAMS)

The Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA) is a comprehensive climate and energy bill that centers equity and puts Illinois on a track to achieve 100 percent renewable energy by 2050. It is the product of hundreds of listening sessions with community members and represents the voices of the 100+ organizations and businesses that make up the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition.



## 1. Equitable Workforce & Business Development

CEJA puts workers first, recognizing structural, historical, and institutional barriers faced by workers and contractors that identify as Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and directing resources and support to reduce those barriers. CEJA invests \$82 million/yr in workforce development and contractor equity and will draw \$1.5 billion/yr of new private workforce investment to Illinois.



## 2. Energy Access & Solar for All

Without deliberate policy, most of the benefits of renewable energy flow to existing privilege and wealth. CEJA counteracts that trend through policies designed to bring the benefits of the clean energy economy to BIPOC, low income, and environmental justice communities. CEJA invests \$2 billion in these communities by 2030, while providing \$50 million/yr in rate relief to low-income consumers.



## 3. Renewable Energy

To avoid the worst impacts of climate change, we must transition our current energy system to clean, affordable, and renewable energy. By creating a path to 100% renewable energy, CEJA is one of the most ambitious plans for renewable energy development in the country, developing 17,000 MW of solar and 6300 MW of wind and putting tens of thousands of Illinoisans to work.



## 4. Energy Efficiency

CEJA saves consumers \$700 million/yr through an expansion of electric and gas energy efficiency programs. Of the tens of thousands of clean energy jobs in Illinois, 72% of them are in efficiency. Expanding these programs will drive efficiency investments, energy burden reductions, and job creation.



## 5. Carbon-free Power

CEJA transitions the Illinois power sector from fossil fuels to clean energy while supporting energy workers and communities impacted by the decline of the coal industry. It achieves a carbon-free power sector by 2030, closing the most harmful polluters first while expanding clean energy generation and good-paying clean energy jobs.



## 6. Capacity Market Reform

Capacity charges have grown increasingly expensive and now make up more than 20% of ComEd customers' electric bills. We don't need this much capacity and these payments are keeping uneconomic dirty fossil fuel plants afloat at the expense of consumers. CEJA calls on the state to take over ComEd's capacity market procurements. By running our own auction, Illinois can stop paying for unnecessary capacity, creating substantial savings for consumers.



## 7. Electric Transportation

CEJA supports electrifying the equivalent of 1.2 million vehicles by 2030, the electrification of public transit and medium and heavy duty fleets, Electric Vehicle (EV) rebates and EV access for low income communities, and a substantial build out of EV infrastructure.



## 8. Support for Fossil Fuel Workers & Communities

In Illinois and across the country, the transition away from coal is underway. Out-of-state energy corporations have made risky investments in expensive and aging Illinois coal plants and mines, and then closed them with little warning or support for workers or communities. CEJA puts coal workers and communities first and guides an orderly transition from coal to renewable energy, investing up to \$137.5 million/yr in transitioning communities.



## 9. Utility Accountability

CEJA sets bold goals for utilities to make the grid more affordable, clean, and equitable, with utility profits contingent upon meeting those goals. CEJA creates a transparent process for making big decisions about our electric grid, and empowers regulators to ensure ratepayer money is well-spent.

## WHY NOW?

### **Paying for energy we don't want and don't need**

Regional and national regulators force Illinois to pay for more energy than we need. This system props up fossil fuel generation and incentivizes new gas plants. Unless the General Assembly acts, Illinoisans will continue to overpay into a system perpetuating the dirty energy status quo.

### **Action on the climate crisis cannot wait**

2020 was the second hottest year on record. In 2019, all 102 counties in Illinois were declared agriculture disaster areas due to extreme weather. The climate clock is always ticking.

### **A plan for workers, families and communities**

Coal company executives acknowledge that coal "is on its way out." Vistra, Dynegy and NRG have repeatedly yanked the rug out from under workers and communities. CEJA provides resources and much needed planning.

### **The renewable energy cliff is here**

Solar incentive programs are now closed for lack of funding. This means that solar customers - families, churches, schools, businesses, etc. - no longer have access to solar savings. Thousands of solar workers are losing their jobs during the COVID pandemic.

