



Report: Clean Energy Jobs Overwhelm Coal, Oil & Gas in 41 States and D.C.

REPORT FINDINGS:

As attacks against the Clean Power Plan and other clean energy policies escalate, a new Sierra Club analysis of Department of Energy [jobs data](#) across the energy sector demonstrates the key role of clean energy in supporting the American workforce.

Clean energy jobs, including from solar, wind, energy efficiency, smart grid technology and battery storage, vastly outnumber all fossil fuel jobs nationally from the coal, oil and gas sectors. That includes jobs in power generation, mining, and extraction.

Nationally, clean energy jobs outnumber all fossil fuel jobs by over 2.5 to 1; and they exceed all jobs in coal and gas by 5 to 1.

The analysis also demonstrates that **41 states and Washington, D.C. (80% of the total) have more clean energy jobs than fossil fuel jobs from all sources.**

Some of the widest gaps where clean energy jobs vastly exceed fossil fuels jobs are in major economies like Florida, North Carolina, Michigan, Virginia, Wisconsin, Georgia, Ohio, Tennessee, Pennsylvania and Indiana. Right now, only nine states have more jobs in fossil fuels than in clean

energy, while **only six states have more jobs in coal and gas than clean energy** — and the growth of clean energy suggests that won't be the case for long.

DATA:

All the data used in this analysis, which is entirely based on Department of Energy 2017 [reporting](#) and [state by state jobs numbers](#), is provided open source here [at this link](#).

CONCLUSION:

Policy makers often incorrectly assume or speak as though energy jobs mean coal, oil and gas jobs exclusively. In fact, it's clear that the energy jobs of both the present and the future are overwhelmingly in the clean energy sector.

Policies to incentivize and invest in clean energy have the potential to create millions of new jobs across the United States, far in excess of the reality and potential of the fossil fuel sector.

Meanwhile, attacks on landmark policies designed to further spur the clean energy economy - like the Clean Power Plan (CPP) - are deeply misguided if they aim to grow the economy and create jobs, as they will actually be counterproductive to that end.

THE PATH FORWARD:

Jobs in clean energy already dominate the energy job space, and our transition to an economy powered clean energy is only still in its early stages. With progress proceeding full speed ahead at the

state and local level, so much more is on the way. For example, **over twenty cities nationwide ranging from Salt Lake City, Utah to Georgetown, Texas have set a goal of achieving 100 percent clean energy**

by 2030, and states like Massachusetts and California are considering legislation to do the same. Meanwhile, other states like [New York](#) and [Oregon](#) have put themselves on a path to completely phase-out coal-fired power plants.

MAKING CLEAN ENERGY WORK FOR WORKING PEOPLE:

As this shift happens, however, **we must ensure that the benefits of the clean energy economy are equitably shared and that the jobs and opportunities it creates provide family-sustaining wages, healthcare benefits, and union representation for workers.**

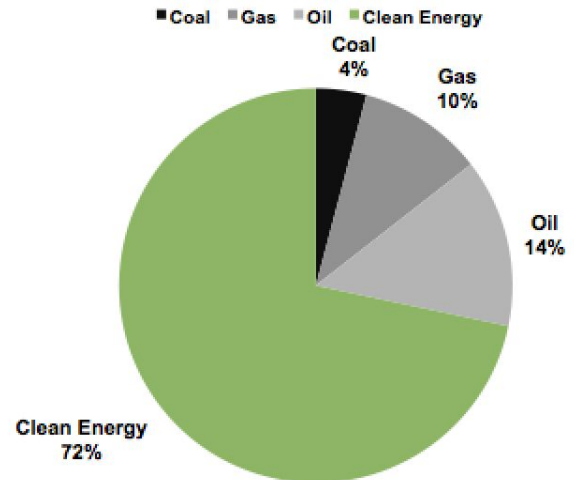
We cannot afford to repeat the mistakes of the past, and so must take steps early on to ensure these workers have strong job stability, opportunities for upward mobility, and secure pathways to the middle class. This means supporting high road job strategies like responsible trade policies, project labor agreements, community benefits agreements, employer neutrality in union organizing drives, local hire, union apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs, and efforts to open more of those opportunities to communities of color and low-income people.

Proactive investment in workforce development is also critical, especially considering that almost three-quarters of employers across all energy sectors found it difficult to hire skilled workers, according to DOE data.

Environmental justice is equally important. One of the critical benefits put at risk by rejection of the EPA's Clean Power Plan is that the plan was built to ensure investments in frontline communities

across the country. Threatening the CPP leaves those communities behind.

Clean Energy vs. Dirty Fuels Jobs



JUSTICE FOR ALL:

It's clear that the benefits of America's transition to clean power must be distributed in a way that treats working people and local communities fairly, so that everyone benefits.

In practice, this means working tirelessly to ensure that the communities and workers historically dependent on fossil fuels are prioritized and put first at every stage of our ongoing transition to an economy powered more fully by clean energy. It also means affordable and equitable access to the benefits of clean energy for communities of color and low-income people, and democratic accountability of the clean energy industry.