## ****A Green and Just Federal Jobs Program: Rebuilding America Through Climate Work****

A rapid transition to a low-carbon economy must also be a just one—one that centers working people, frontline communities, and those historically excluded from economic opportunity. This plan calls for a bold federal investment in a **Green and Just Jobs Program**, modeled on the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) of the 1930s, but redesigned for the 21st century to meet the scale of the climate crisis and the need for economic repair.

This modern Civilian Climate Corps would mobilize a national workforce to restore ecosystems, build sustainable infrastructure, clean up pollution, and decarbonize transportation systems. It would offer not only jobs, but **dignified, living-wage work with benefits, training, and clear career pathways.**

### Core Strategies and Program Components

**Establish a modern Civilian Climate Corps with hundreds of thousands of direct hires.**  
The federal government will employ workers in sectors essential to environmental and community resilience, including:

* Urban forestry and tree maintenance
* Wetland, prairie, coastal, and riparian habitat restoration
* Environmental remediation in polluted or formerly industrial areas
* Installation of green infrastructure like bioswales, rain gardens, and permeable pavements
* Construction and expansion of electrified transit systems, bike lanes, and pedestrian corridors

**Guarantee fair wages, full benefits, and career development opportunities.**  
Jobs will offer a living wage indexed to local costs, along with healthcare, retirement benefits, and paid leave. Workers will gain access to training programs, certifications, and pathways into long-term careers in clean energy, ecological restoration, construction, and environmental science. These are not stop-gap jobs—they are gateways to lifelong, purpose-driven employment.

**Prioritize hiring from historically disadvantaged and transition-affected communities.**  
Recruitment will focus on those most in need of opportunity and most impacted by the climate and economic crises, including:

* Residents of environmental justice communities
* Workers and regions transitioning away from coal, oil, and gas
* Tribal nations and rural areas long excluded from federal investment
* Formerly incarcerated individuals and others facing employment barriers

This ensures that the program delivers not only environmental repair but **economic and racial justice**.

**Empower communities with oversight and participatory governance.**  
Local communities will guide the selection and design of projects. Advisory boards, public engagement forums, and transparent decision-making processes will give residents real power in shaping outcomes. Community input is not a formality—it is a foundation of program legitimacy and impact.

**Connect to local workforce training systems.**  
The program will coordinate with unions, community colleges, high schools, and apprenticeship programs to align training and placement. Workers will receive on-the-job learning experiences that prepare them for long-term roles in public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

### Why It Matters: Climate, Equity, and Economic Renewal

A modern climate jobs program achieves far more than emissions reduction. It provides a platform for rebuilding America’s economy and infrastructure in a way that prioritizes care for people and the planet. It addresses climate, unemployment, disinvestment, and inequality through a single, unifying national effort.

This approach builds on historical models like the New Deal-era CCC, which employed over 3 million workers in forestry, conservation, and infrastructure projects—but this version corrects the exclusions of the past. It is inclusive, community-driven, and built for today’s climate realities.

Research shows that ecological restoration creates 15 to 33 jobs per $1 million invested—more than fossil fuel or traditional infrastructure sectors. Investments in transit and green infrastructure offer similar or greater economic multipliers while producing long-term social and environmental benefits.

By tying job creation directly to climate resilience and environmental repair, this program restores both livelihoods and ecosystems. It reframes the transition to a green economy not as sacrifice, but as opportunity.

### Integrated with Broader Policy Goals

The Green and Just Federal Jobs Program intersects with every other part of the national climate plan:

* Restoration work supports reforestation, wetland recovery, and urban greening
* Remediation work addresses pollution and health risks in frontline communities
* Transit construction accelerates decarbonization of transportation
* Community hiring and governance mechanisms ensure environmental justice and economic equity

This is not just a jobs program. It is a vision for economic transformation rooted in **public purpose, ecological healing, and human dignity**.

### Key References

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