

# GREEN JOBS FOR ALL

## Two Crises: One Solution

### The Environmental Crisis

Devastating environmental changes—largely resulting from the burning of fossil fuels— are occurring everywhere on earth.

Water grows scarcer in dry regions, torrential rains increase in wet regions, heat waves are more common & more severe, hurricanes are more frequent & more deadly, wildfires worsen, forests are dying, & melting ice caps portend coastal flooding threatening human habitation. Hotter climates mean diminishing food supplies that portend starvation & consequent conflict, particularly in the poorer countries of the world. **Scientists warn that without significant fossil fuel reduction, the earth will become less livable.**

### The Jobs Crisis

High unemployment is a chronic problem, higher when the economy sinks but always present. The fear of more unemployment hinders efforts to solve the environmental crisis.

21.4 million people officially unemployed, jobless but not looking for work (discouraged, unable to obtain child care or transportation, etc.), or forced to work part-time.

18.5 million more work year-round, full-time for less than the 4- person poverty line

**39.9 unemployed, underemployed, or working poor—severely disadvantaged workers**

Black workers have more than twice the unemployment rate of white workers.

Hispanic workers have an unemployment rate 47% higher than whites.

Unemployment is **not only a minority problem**: the number of unemployed whites is 61% higher than the number of unemployed blacks & Hispanics combined.

Too many young American-- of all races & ethnicities—foresee a future without good jobs.

### The Solution--- Creation of Green Jobs

In the 1930s, the Roosevelt Administration showed we could put millions to work doing useful jobs that made a lasting contribution to our country – roads, bridges, schools, libraries, housing, parks & environmental conservation, arts, culture-- & much more.

**Creating green jobs would solve both environmental and unemployment crises—as well as decrease our growing economic inequality.**

### What Are Green Jobs?

- Retrofitting or making houses, office buildings, schools, & factories more energy efficient
- Manufacturing & installing solar panels, wind turbines, geothermal & other forms of renewable energy, along with employing researchers to develop more efficient alternatives to fossil fuels
- Redirecting agribusiness subsidies to local, environmentally sustainable farming
- Building a railroad system that provides affordable, fuel-efficient public transportation
- Making our infrastructure more efficient by repairing roads, bridges, & water systems....
- Adding millions of needed teachers, child care & health care workers to our work force
- Producing easily recyclable & repairable goods & reducing planned obsolescence
- Providing education about green technologies & increasing awareness of climate change

**More leisure like paid vacations for all workers would reduce environmental & unemployment crises & economic inequality**

**SEE OVER FOR LEGISLATION THAT WOULD CREATE MILLIONS OF GREEN JOBS  
NATIONAL JOBS FOR ALL COALITION**

## **JOBS LEGISLATION PENDING BEFORE CONGRESS**

### **HR 1000 - The Humphrey-Hawkins 21<sup>st</sup> Century Full Employment & Training Act**

Introduced by Rep. John Conyers (D-MI), HR 1000 commits the U.S. to full employment--the right to useful work at living wages for all. This government job guarantee would remove a major barrier to dealing with the environmental crisis: fear of job loss. Through partnerships between the Department of Labor and state and local governments, non-profit community organizations, and small businesses, HR 1000 would create millions of new jobs in construction, infrastructure repair, energy and conservation, education, health care, human services, and neighborhood renovation. HR 1000 respects existing collective bargaining agreements and protects workers' rights to join labor unions.

HR 1000 would be funded by a Financial Transactions Tax of 1/4 of 1 percent (0.25%) on stock transactions and similar small taxes on futures, options, and swaps transactions. These modest assessments would generate enough money to create 2.5 to 3.9 million jobs during the first two years of the program. The bill would also help bring down the federal deficit. For every 1 million unemployed people who go back to work, the federal deficit decreases by \$54 billion.

### **HR 1617 – Emergency Jobs to Restore the American Dream Act**

Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) introduced HR 1617, with 19 cosponsors, in the previous Congress and plans to reintroduce it in the current 114<sup>th</sup> Congress. This Act would create over 2 million jobs over two years: public service jobs to implement energy audit programs and retrofits, improve public parks, renovate schools and housing, and expand childcare and early education. HR 1617 would cost \$227 billion, financed by higher tax brackets for the rich, eliminating Big Oil subsidies, and closing tax loopholes for corporations that ship jobs overseas.

### **HR 2553 – National Infrastructure Bank Act**

Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) introduced the National Infrastructure Bank Act, with 103 cosponsors, in the previous Congress and will reintroduce it in the current 114<sup>th</sup> Congress. The Act would create a public bank to leverage private and public capital to support infrastructure projects, including transportation, environment, energy, telecommunications, and water projects. The bank would emphasize environmental infrastructure projects such as clean water, energy, and electric infrastructure projects. HR 2553 is supported by the Blue-Green Alliance, the United Steelworkers, and Utility Workers of America.

### **HR 1966 -- The 21st Century Civilian Conservation Corps Act**

Introduced by Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-O), HR 1966 would establish a Civilian Conservation Corps similar to the one established in the 1930s. The new CCC would provide jobs to unemployed or underemployed U.S. citizens in constructing, maintaining, and carrying through works of a public nature, such as forestation of U.S. and state lands, prevention of forest fires, floods, and soil erosion, and construction and repair of National Park System paths and trails. HR 1966 would be funded at a level of \$16 billion a year from fiscal year 2016 through fiscal year 2019.

**You can help!!** *Support these bills and urge others to do so.* Pass a resolution supporting these bills in your union, labor council, community organization, or city council. Visit [www.PutAmericatoWork.net](http://www.PutAmericatoWork.net) for more information about the bills, related federal legislation, and sample resolutions.

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