

“CEJA Can't Wait” Fact Sheet

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PHRASES TO INSPIRE YOUR QUOTES

The Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA) can't wait because ...

- Climate change won't wait.
- I won't pay to bail out fossil fuels.
- Renewable energy must be our future.
- We need to support fossil fuel workers and communities in a just transition.
- We have waited long enough. Communities like Waukegan need to be prioritized.
- We need clean air and water today.
- We need to reduce pollution.
- We need to prevent the rate hike from increasing our electricity bills.
- We need 25% renewable by 2025.
- We need 50% renewable by 2030.
- We need to create thousands of clean energy jobs.
- We need a just transition for Waukegan.
- There's no more time to waste! #CEJA puts us on the road to recovery by providing long-term answers to the public health and economic challenges posed by #COVID19. Please join us in the fight to pass CEJA now!
- 74% of voters polled say #CEJA should be passed immediately and not delayed until next year. CEJA will help us rebuild communities and recover from the #COVID19 pandemic crisis. Tell your legislators and Gov. Pritzker that #CEJACantWait.
- It's time to hold utility companies accountable! No more automatic rate hikes. #CEJA will increase transparency and public participation to keep costs low for consumers. Tell your legislators and Gov. Pritzker that #CEJACantWait
- Together, we can ensure #CEJA will boost the clean energy economy in Illinois! Help pass CEJA by directly contacting your lawmakers today! Can we count on you?

WHAT IS THE CLEAN ENERGY JOBS ACT (CEJA)?

CEJA is a comprehensive, grassroots law that puts jobs and equity at the center of a clean energy future. The bill strives for 50% renewable energy and for a carbon-free power sector by 2030. By taking advantage of the falling cost of wind and solar power and focusing on energy efficiency, the bill puts Illinois on a path to 100% renewable energy by 2050.

Additionally, CEJA guarantees cost savings on electricity bills for consumers through capacity market reform. The bill outlines and supports a just transition for fossil fuel workers and communities by creating Clean Jobs Workforce Hubs and Clean Energy Empowerment Zones. Both initiatives aim to support communities and workers impacted by the decline of fossil fuel generation by workforce training and tax and investment credits.

DETAILS ON CEJA

- **Guaranteed cost savings**
 - Contains a consumer protection adjustment
 - ComEd customers will pay less than what they currently pay for electricity
 - Locks in a combined 5% savings on the following charges: energy, capacity, zero-emission credits (ZECs), and renewable energy credits (RECs)
 - 5% savings is a price ceiling, not a floor; customer savings could be greater
- **Takes advantage of the falling cost of wind and solar power**
 - Puts Illinois on a cost-effective path to 100% renewable energy by 2050
 - Builds enough new wind and solar farms to power more than 5 million homes and attract more than \$30 billion in new private investment to Illinois
 - Adds 40 million new solar panels and 2,500 additional wind turbines in the state, quadruple the amount of new renewable energy created by the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA)
 - Quadruples the Illinois Solar for All program to ensure low- and moderate-income communities benefit from new community solar projects
 - Creates incentives to expand access to rooftop solar and community solar projects for low-income communities
- **Capacity market reform**
 - Currently, we pay power plant operators for the commitment to have enough electricity available if demand spikes (capacity)
 - Price for ComEd customers is determined by auctions run by PJM Interconnection (power grid operator for northern Illinois)
 - Auction process needlessly inflated Illinois electric bills in recent years
 - Fossil fuel generators pushed the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to revamp capacity market rules to funnel more money into their power plants
 - Could raise Illinois power bills by up to \$864 million a year
 - Under CEJA, the Illinois Power Agency (IPA) would be in charge of a special electricity market for northern Illinois
 - Illinois would be in charge of its own clean energy policy
 - Consumers would save money
 - Investment in renewable energy investment would expand in the state

- **Energy efficiency:** “Energy efficiency should form the basis of any robust clean energy policy” as it is the cheapest clean energy resource
 - CEJA expands energy efficiency programs that have already saved consumers billions
 - Requires ComEd to develop and enhance customer efficiency programs to cut electricity waste by a record 21.5% by 2030; Ameren, by 16% by 2030
 - Offers bonuses for exceeding targets and penalties for falling short
 - Could lead to up to \$7 billion in consumer savings, according to estimates by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
 - Improves upon efficiency standards established by FEJA by applying those standards to natural gas bills
- **Vehicle electrification:** The transportation sector is the leading source of carbon pollution in Illinois, responsible for roughly one-third of all carbon emissions
 - CEJA removes 1 million gasoline and diesel vehicles from Illinois roadways and increases the development of electric vehicle (EV) ridesharing, electrified public transportation, and EV charging stations.
 - Creates a “beneficial electrification” program with policies designed to encourage people to charge their electric vehicles during times when electricity demand is low
 - Prevents a spike in demand
 - Could generate more than \$2.5 billion in cumulative consumer savings over the next decade if the state implements smart EV policies, according to a Citizens Utility Board (CUB) study
 - Could benefit residents who do not use electric vehicles through lower electric bills resulting from greater utilization of the electric grid during off-peak hours
 - Creates EV Access for All program to ensure all Illinois residents can benefit from electric vehicles, and supports the creation of low-income electric vehicle car-sharing and “last mile” electric shuttles to serve transit deserts
- **Expands access to clean energy careers across Illinois, especially in communities of color**
 - Prioritizes companies that implement equity actions to ensure equitable representation in Illinois’ clean energy workforce
 - Creates a contractor incubator program that focuses on the development of underserved businesses in the clean energy sector
 - Provides a fund for energy efficiency contractors to address health and safety issues that prevent them from completing low-income home efficiency projects
 - Addresses issues such as mold, asbestos, and leaks
 - Better efficiency lowers costs for everyone on the grid

- **Reducing peak demand**
 - Directs the IPA to develop a plan to cut electricity demand through programs that promote energy storage, efficiency, and special rate plans
 - High electricity demand increases electricity market prices and forces Illinois consumers to pay for new power plant construction
 - Programs that lower peak demand can decrease our costs by billions of dollars
 - Energy storage (like with electric car batteries) can manage peak load
- **Achieving a carbon-free power sector by 2030**
 - Directs the Illinois EPA to begin a comprehensive stakeholder process that prioritizes carbon reductions in impacted communities and reduces harmful pollution from power plants to zero by 2030
 - Creates jobs in communities abandoned by coal-burning companies
- **Create Clean Jobs Workforce Hubs**
 - A network of frontline organizations providing workforce training across Illinois for economically disadvantaged communities and former fossil fuel workers
 - Community education and outreach about workforce and training opportunities
 - Training, apprenticeships, job readiness, and skill development
 - Targeted outreach and recruitment
 - A stipend program for participants in clean energy jobs-related training programs and company apprenticeships to compensate them for their time and help pay for necessary living expenses during training
 - Supplemental funding for transportation, child care, certification preparation and testing fees, and other services and supplies to reduce their barriers
 - Direct assistance, counseling, placement, and retention support services
 - Assistance in creating a resume
 - Training in professional networking skills
 - Job interview skills
 - How to find open positions
 - Opportunities to meet hiring contractors in both union and non-union career options
 - Recruitment, communications, and ongoing engagement with potential employers
 - 15 community-based organizations geographically distributed across the state
 - One in or near each of these communities: Chicago south side, Chicago southwest side, Waukegan, Rockford, Aurora, Joliet, Peoria, Champaign, Danville, Decatur, Carbondale, East St. Louis, Alton
 - Two other two sites to be determined based on high concentrations of low-income residents and environmental justice communities that are otherwise underserved by the other 13 organizations

- Provides direct and sustained support to one or more of the following groups to enter and complete the career pipeline for clean energy jobs:
 - Economically disadvantaged
 - Environmental justice communities and communities of color
 - People with criminal records
 - People who are or were foster children
 - Displaced fossil fuel workers
 - Members of these groups who also are women, transgender, or youth
- Advisory board will hold meetings and review metrics at least every 6 months
 - Aid the department in tracking the performance of programs
 - Develop recommendations for the program administrators to use to improve programs
- Allocate at least \$1 million annually to each of the 15 community-based organizations
- **Expanding clean energy entrepreneurship and contractor incubator program**
 - Supports the advancement and growth of disadvantaged businesses and contractors
 - Provides the needed resources for such businesses to be able to effectively compete for, gain, and execute clean energy-related projects
 - Access to low-cost capital for small and disadvantaged clean energy businesses and contractors so they can compete on a level playing field with more established, capitalized businesses
 - Support for obtaining the necessary insurance, bonding, back office services, permits, training and certifications, business planning, financial assurance requirements, etc.
 - Development, mentoring, training, networking, and other support; connect them to specific projects
 - Outreach and communications so potential contractor clients know of the program
 - Prevailing wage compliance training and back office support to implement prevailing wage practices
 - Serves same places as Clean Jobs Workforce Hubs
 - Same board and oversight as Clean Jobs Workforce Hubs
- **Empowers local communities to develop Community Energy and Climate Plans, to drive comprehensive local investment in energy, transportation, workforce, and environmental projects**
 - Intended to help local governments develop a comprehensive approach to combining different energy and climate programs and funding resources to achieve complementary impact
 - Communities must qualify as a Clean Energy Empowerment Zone in pilot program to be eligible for funding and resources

- **Creates Clean Energy Empowerment Zones**
 - Supports communities and workers who are economically impacted by the decline of fossil fuel generation
 - Areas that had fossil fuel plants/coal mines or will retire them within the next 5 years
 - Lasts for 10 years
 - Tax and investment credits
 - Develop a process for accepting proposals from units of local government to mitigate the impact of lower property tax revenue due to the retirement of coal, gas, or nuclear plants
 - Provides payments for no more than 5 years based on need
 - Will not exceed average property tax payment in the last three years
 - Board of 8, task forces, and commission
 - Commission creates a report about workers and fossil fuel plants, plan about how to help
 - Displaced energy workers bill of rights
 - Notice of plant closure at least 2 years in advance
 - Employment assistance and career services
 - Full-tuition scholarship for Illinois institutions and trade schools
 - Owners of electric generating units greater than 300 megawatts must provide employment information, extended health insurance, and maintain responsible retirement account portfolios
- **Tax credits**
 - Available to employers who hire a former energy worker or graduate of Clean Jobs Workforce Hubs training program (or multiples) and retain employee for at least one year
 - 20% credit of the salary paid for the first year, 15% for the second, 10% for the third
 - Create and retain new jobs and develop/invest in RE
- **Coal severance fee**
 - Levies a tax upon any person/company/etc. engaged in the business of severing or preparing coal for sale, profit, or commercial use, if the coal is severed from a mine in Illinois
 - 6% of the gross value of the severed coal
 - Helps fund CEJA