

June 2015 Roundtable Gathering – Breakout Group Notes

Making Green Jobs Good Jobs

1. Public Transit = Good jobs (drivers, dispatchers); good for environment; reduces traffic, which makes economy more efficient; good for health
 - Gov's transportation plan is large and long-term, but too car-focused, not much is mass transit
 - Make transit vehicles more efficient
2. Making buildings and homes energy efficient
 - Audits, modifications, retrofits
3. Solar expansion, especially shared/community solar
4. Connect transit to solar, compounding benefits
5. Sustained Orderly Development – need some degree of economic planning to avoid boom-bust cycles and ensure that jobs will actually be there if want to encourage workers to get the training

Job Pathways & Pipelines

- Mary Reynolds of New Haven Works shared more about the New Haven experience
- Critical need to increase manufacturing job pipelines
- Desire for clean, sustainable manufacturing jobs for people with less than a 4-yr degree
- Renewable energy could help reduce cost of energy and help keep industry in the state/region
- Need to ensure training and access to solar and efficiency jobs for urban workers
- Need to address barriers to rapid expansion of efficiency and solar in urban communities (e.g., landlord/tenant challenges & allow shared solar) to provide local employment opportunities
- Take management of efficiency programs away from utilities. Why not let unions have oversight of energy efficiency contractors?
- Why not begin and urban environmental WPA (Works Progress Administration)?

Job Creation and Economic Planning to meet 2050 Climate Goal

- Mass transit is key
 - Land use planning is critical factor in promoting mass transit use
 - Need creative approaches to funding for mass transit since passenger fares only cover 1/3 of cost: including “congestion pricing” for roadways
 - Educate public on relative cost of driving a car vs. taking transit
 - Educate public and officials on co-benefits of mass transit (Amalgamated Transit Union has a terrific packet on this)
 - 80% of state transportation \$ goes to roads
 - Need to organize/empower transit riders, who are largely low-income
- Must ensure that climate plans address poverty and inequality; e.g., low-income communities pay into energy efficiency programs but get far less benefit (i.e. efficiency installations) that wealthier suburban communities

- Shift manufacturing sector away from military production and toward transit and clean energy production
- Shift away from trash incineration to more recycling