[\LNS Clean Power Plan\ CPP Toolkit2; draft of 9/7/16]

# Jobs and Justice in State Clean Power Plans:

# A Toolkit for Communities, Workers, and Environmentalists

The Labor Network for Sustainability

## Introduction

In August, 2015 President Barack Obama unveiled the Environmental Protection Agency’s Clean Power Plan (CPP) designed to fight climate change by reducing carbon pollution from power plants. The purpose of this “toolkit” it to help workers, climate justice groups, environmental advocates, and at-risk frontline communities address a crucial dimension of the CPP – its impact on jobs.

The CPP puts responsibility for carbon reduction decisions on the states. It requires each state to develop its own plan to meet EPA reduction targets. The result, as the *New York Times* put it, is an emerging battle in state capitals “as businesses, environmentalists, and lawmakers joust in 50 separate arenas over the scope of the resulting rules." (6/2/14)

Before the final CPP was even issued, the Labor Network for Sustainability began publishing material to help unions, environmentalists, and grassroots organizations participate in shaping state clean power plans. We believe these groups have a strong interest in helping to shape state plans because the plans can affect them – positively and negatively – depending on the specific character of each plan. If they allow other interests to shape the plans without their input, they are likely to suffer from the results.

There is also danger that such groups will be divided against each other as each seeks to maximize its particular concerns at the expense of the others. Utility companies, fossil fuel producers, and other such interests will be able to impose their own plans unless they are challenged by coalitions that represent broad public interests.

In many states there is an opportunity to ally environmental, labor, and justice advocates around approaches that emphasize renewables, manufacturing, energy efficiency, and conservation, as better than conversion to natural gas, nukes, "clean coal," and cap-and-trade plans that lack necessary safeguards against speculation and environmental injustice. Central to an effective approach will be a plan to provide a “just transition” for workers and communities who are dependent on fossil fuel production and use for their livelihoods.

LNS believes that we can implement the CPP in ways that maximize the gains for climate protection by constructing broad coalitions that include environmentalists, trade unions, and social justice advocates around our common interest in protecting the climate and maximizing positive jobs impacts. Those coalitions can pursue state plans that embody the synergism among jobs, worker and community protection, environmental justice, and climate protection objectives. With strong alliances built around effective unifying plans, we can be a powerful force in shaping state plans.

This toolkit provides resources to help win such plans.

Note: The Labor Network for Sustainability was founded in 2009 based on an understanding that long-term sustainability cannot be achieved without environmental protection, economic fairness, and social justice. LNS helps workers and environmentalists engage in order to help our society address the deepening crises of climate and inequality. LNS believes we all need a livelihood and we all need a livable planet.

Note: This toolkit is limited to materials produced by LNS. A great deal of information about the CPP is available on the Internet. For a useful list of sources see “Critical Web Resources: Clean Power Plan 2015” [<http://www.ejleadershipforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Critical-Web-Resources-CP-v3-728.pdf> from the Environmental Justice Leadership Forum. For material targeted for local environmental justice campaigns see their“ Clean Power Plan Tool Kit” [<http://www.ejleadershipforum.org/clean-power-plan-tool-kit/>]

## Background on the CPP

**“The EPA’s Clean Power Plan, Jobs and Labor”** [<http://www.labor4sustainability.org/articles/the-epas-clean-power-plan-and-jobs/>]

is a briefing paper on jobs and the CPP. It provides an introduction to the CPP, quantifies its likely impact on jobs, and proposes possible responses. It finds that:

* The overall effect of the CPP will be to increase total jobs by about 360,000 through 2020.
* The CPP will continue to increase jobs through 2030.
* The CPP represents only a small proportion of the jobs that could be created by climate protection programs in the future.
* The CPP will result in 12,600 fewer coal mining jobs and 11,633 electrical power generation, transmission, and distribution jobs in 2020.
* Public policy can and should protect the livelihood of workers adversely affected by the plan.
* Unions can help shape state CPP plans in ways that encourage job growth, protect displaced workers, enhance environmental justice, and protect the climate protection.

## Protecting workers and communities under the CPP

**“The EPA’s Clean Power Plan: How Unions and Allies Can Protect Affected Workers”**

<http://www.labor4sustainability.org/?s=Clean+Power+Plan> examines potential job losses as a result of the CPP. It evaluates the Obama administration’s proposed “Power+ Plan” to provide new investments for economic transition in central Appalachia. It reviews other possible models, such as the Federal programs for communities affected by military bases closed by the Base Realignment and Closing Commission (BRAC). It proposes “a transition package for coal miners, utility workers, and other affected workers that would provide robust financial and training support and preferential access to the new jobs created by environmental protection policies” combined with “vigorous support for economic planning and investment in the communities affected by the CPP, focusing on the development of new clean energy industries.”

**“A Superfund for Workers: How to Promote a Just Transition and Break Out of the Jobs vs. Environment Trap”** [<http://www.labor4sustainability.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/1115brecher.pdf> ] presents an extended discussion of public policies to provide a “just transition” for workers adversely affected by climate protection programs, including but not limited to the CPP. It presents the origin of such efforts in the proposals of labor and environmental leader Tony Mazzocchi of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers union for a “Superfund for workers” that would provide financial support and opportunities for higher education for workers displaced by environmental policies. It discusses the inadequacies of most economic transition programs, notably those for “trade adjustment assistance” (TAA). It describes what a “superfund for workers” might provide and what it might cost. It also describes models for helping communities that are adversely affected by environmental programs like the CPP. Finally, it indicates how local struggles to shut down climate-threatening facilities can build in demands and proposals for a just transition for affected workers and communities.

## Addressing job issues in coal power plant closings

**“Jobs Beyond Coal: A Manual for Communities, Workers, and Environmentalists”** [<http://report.labor4sustainability.org>] is a guide for those who wish to make the transition from coal—and to make it in a way that is most beneficial and least threatening to ordinary workers, consumers, and community members. It is intended for communities, unions, environmentalists, native tribes, public officials, and anyone involved in or affected by coal-retirement campaigns. Its goal is to help those campaigning for a transition from coal to renewable energy to design their proposals, frame their appeals, and conduct their campaigns in ways that are most likely to win support and reduce opposition from workers, unions, and community members. It presents both case studies and strategic guidance. Jobs Beyond Coal provides both case studies and strategic advice that should be valuable to Because Although it precedes the CPP, Jobs Beyond Coal provides case studies and strategic advice applicable to coal-fired power plants that may be downsized or closed as a result of the CPP.

## The CPP and the Clean Energy Future

**“The Clean Energy Future: Protecting the Climate, Creating Jobs, and Saving Money” [**<http://www.labor4sustainability.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/cleanenergy_10212015_main.pdf>] is a report by LNS and 350.org based on research by Synapse Energy Economics which shows that the U.S. can reach the IPCC target of an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, create 550,000 high quality jobs per year, and saving consumers money. The CPP is far less ambitious in its GHG-reduction goals. But as the report notes, “states can configure their CPPs to serve as first steps toward realizing the far more ambitious objectives of The Clean Energy Future.”

**“Connecticut’s Clean Energy Future: Climate goals and employment benefits”** [<http://www.labor4sustainability.org/reports/new-report-on-connecticuts-clean-energy-future/>] is a state report based on “The Clean Energy Future.” It shows what the “clean energy future” means for one state. It indicates that Connecticut can realize its official climate goal – reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 80 percent below 2001 levels by 2050 – while adding more than six thousand jobs to the state economy and saving money on electricity, heating, and transportation costs. The report illustrates how campaigns can challenge the idea that a state must choose between climate protection and jobs.

**“Clean Energy Strategy Must Map Way to Climate Goal”** [<http://www.labor4sustainability.org/articles/2715/>] is a *Hartford Courant* op ed by a union leader and a climate activist illustrating how the issues of climate protection, jobs, and the CPP can be linked at a state level.

## Renewable portfolio standards

**“A Labor Guide to Renewable Energy Standards”** [<http://www.labor4sustainability.org/post/a-labor-guide-to-renewable-energy-standards/>] Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS), also known as Renewable Energy Standards (RES) and Renewable Electricity Standards (RES) are one of the key elements that can be included in state clean power plans. Here is a guide for unions and allies about how they work and how they can support job growth.

## Understanding labor

**“Labor Landscape Analysis”** [<http://www.labor4sustainability.org/labor-landscape-analysis/>] is a set of tools designed to help anyone trying to work with labor on climate protection and sustainability. It includes:

**“The Labor-Climate Landscape: A Guided Tour for Worker-and-Climate-Protection Advocates”** [<http://www.labor4sustainability.org/articles/a-climate-protection-guide-to-organized-labor/>] presents an introduction to the American labor movement, an overview of how major unions and sectors relate to climate issues, and strategic guidance on how to approach unions around climate protection.

**“Profiles of 38 unions, federations, and other labor organizations on sustainability concerns”** <http://profiles.labor4sustainability.org> provides a guide to the labyrinth of organized labor and information that will be invaluable for anyone working with specific unions around climate and sustainability.

**“The past, present, and future of cooperation and conflict between labor and environmental movements”** <http://timeline.labor4sustainability.org> is a brief history of the labor and environmental movements, their cooperation and conflict, and the future of their collaboration. It is intended as an overview designed to inform and inspire, and can be presented in a fifteen to twenty minute presentation in a workshop setting. Its purpose is “to help us understand each others’ movements so we can better move down a common path.”

**“Historical analysis of how labor changes on key issues”** [<http://www.labor4sustainability.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/pdf_11042014.pdf>]

presents five case studies of how labor has changed positions on important public issues such as civil rights, the Iraq war, single payer health care, globalization, and immigration. Each case study sheds light on different strategic approaches.

**“’Jobs vs. the Environment’: How to Counter This Divisive Big Lie”** [<http://www.thenation.com/article/jobs-vs-environment-how-counter-divisive-big-lie/>]

is an article from *The Nation* on how to create common ground between the labor and climate movements.

**“Why green jobs should be union jobs”**

<http://www.labor4sustainability.org/post/why-green-jobs-should-be-union-jobs/>

Argues that “environmentalists and the public should ensure that the new green jobs provide the right to have a union, and then encourage the workers to organize and employers to recognize and cooperate with them.”