



Good for the Economy.
Good for the Environment.



COVID-19 AND THE CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY

The economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis is hurting businesses, workers and industries from coast to coast. Among the hard-hit sectors is the clean energy sector, which employs more than 3.4 million Americans and is essential to our nation's transition to a clean economy. As lawmakers look to reinvigorate our economy and get America back to work, E2 surveyed some of its 8,000 members and supporters nationwide about how they're being impacted, and how public policy could help. Here are some of their stories with specific

congressional recommendations on page 2:

*"We were on track for our best year ever when this happened. We spent over \$880k on solar panels from China that have been stuck overseas due to factory shutdowns. Now they are closing schools and **we are losing staff due to self quarantine.** I suspect this only going to get worse." – Iowa solar company CEO*

*"We are devastated by the coronavirus. Nothing we do is considered 'critical service' so installing energy efficiency and solar panels in California is completely shut down. We can't go into apartment units to do energy audits or efficiency upgrades in NYC. **We are facing substantial furloughs for staff and paycuts for the ones who aren't furloughed.** Economic stimulus should be in the form of grants to businesses to keep people employed." – NYC clean energy investor*

"We have experienced project cancelations and our consultants are having a harder time signing people up for new projects. Things are slowing down severely. An economic stimulus package should include money to subsidize employees' wages who are quarantined or otherwise can't work or have to work reduced schedules due to COVID-19." – Oregon energy efficiency executive

*"We are a development company ... that has to raise money to live and for projects. This downturn makes everything uncertain in the short run. **It's access to financing that is the biggest problem. [We need] direct grants or loans.**" – Colorado biofuels executive*

*"**Technology commercialization should be a critical part of any (stimulus) package.** We need to make sure new technologies that move us to a decarbonized future, create significant jobs and provide local and regional economic stimulus are not disrupted. – Massachusetts venture capital investor*

*"We had 5 residential retrofit projects that were supposed to begin this week but cannot due to the shutdown, as well as 1 warehouse project. Much of our work is in workforce development, as we train high school, college and other adults in energy efficiency technology. **We now have to alter our training plans and reduce our outreach and business development.**" -California energy efficiency and training company executive*

*"**The pandemic highlights the need for resiliency throughout the economy, and that includes basic infrastructure like the grid.** Continued investment in vehicle electrification and grid modernization can be incredibly powerful from a resiliency perspective." -Washington state cleantech investor*

IN ADDITION TO OTHER CRITICAL NEEDS, WE URGE CONGRESS TO provide immediate relief for the millions of workers in hard hit clean energy industries and provide stimulus support that can drive job creation and economic growth for years to come.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

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The power of stimulus specifically in the clean energy sector cannot be overstated.

We ask Congress to take the following critical actions to help:

- **Reinstate the [Section 1603](#) program that will deliver payments directly** to clean energy developers and suppliers in addition to of investment tax credits. This will result in an immediate and badly needed cash infusion for clean energy companies and get them back to work in the near term. This program should also be expanded to battery storage and energy efficiency projects by expanding the definition of “specified energy property” to include them.
- **Extend, Expand and Reform clean energy incentives that help deploy solar, wind, energy storage, offshore wind, energy efficiency and electric vehicles by enacting the following bills:**
 - H.R. 2096/S. 1142, “The Energy Storage Tax Incentive and Deployment Act of 2019”
 - H.R. 3961 and S. 2289, “The Renewable Energy Extension Act”
 - H.R. 4887/S. 1988, “The Offshore Wind Power Act”, and S. 1957/H.R. 3473, “The Incentivizing Offshore Wind Power Act”
 - H.R. 2256/S. 1094, “The Driving America Forward Act”
 - Extend the Production Tax Credit (PTC) for wind as included in the House Ways and Means Committee’s GREEN Act proposal
- **Resurrect the [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant](#) program** for states that can be used to immediately launch job-intensive renewable energy projects and energy efficiency programs for K-12 schools and municipal buildings. Previous clean energy related block grant programs created about 63,000 jobs and saved electricity users \$5.2 billion.
- **Expand the [Small Business Administration loan program](#)** to include specific opportunities for clean energy companies get access to funds for short-term payroll needs and to cover costs for materials investments for renewable and energy efficiency projects.
- **Create a national program to help utilities upgrade and modernize our nation’s aging electric grid**, which will both create new jobs and improve the resilience of our nation’s energy system.
- **Increase funding for clean energy job training** by funding community colleges and other educational institutions specifically to create training programs for displaced workers looking for new careers in clean energy.
- **Invest in clean cars and electric vehicle infrastructure** by building on legislation such as the [Clean Corridors Act of 2019](#) to immediately create jobs expanding the nation’s electric vehicle charging network, and consider a nationwide vehicle trade-in program to get cleaner, more efficient cars in production and to consumers.
- **Increase funding for programs such as the Department of Energy’s Loan Guarantee Program and the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E)**, to immediately spur innovation and new opportunities as the economy recovers. Under ARPA-E, the federal government helped [jump-start 475 transformative clean-energy technologies that led to \\$1.25 billion in private-sector follow-on funding](#) and created tens of thousands of jobs.
- **Increase funding to at least \$1 billion for DOE’s Weatherization Assistance Program**, which provides funding for cost-saving energy efficiency upgrades for low-income households. The program has supported more than 8,000 jobs and provides weatherization services to 35,000 homes every year.
- **Increase funding for DOE’s clean energy demonstration programs**, including for large-scale energy storage, advanced renewable energy technologies, clean transportation solutions, clean industrial projects, and clean hydrogen and other zero-carbon fuels. DOE’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, which houses most of the agency’s existing programs for these technologies, has been shown to provide \$33 of public benefit for every taxpayer dollar invested.
- **Expand funding for advanced construction of net-zero-carbon building retrofits for low-income homes.** DOE’s building technologies program has developed technology solutions to quickly retrofit existing buildings using pre-fabricated materials to reduce energy use and save people money. Large increases in investment in these programs, with direct subsidies to accelerate retrofits for low-income households, will expand on the millions of energy efficiency jobs, while reducing emissions and lowering costs.