



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 recommends Congress take the following critical actions.

- **Reinstate the [Section 1603](#) program that will deliver payments directly** to clean energy developers and suppliers 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:**
 - o H.R. 2096/S. 1142, “The Energy Storage Tax Incentive and Deployment Act of 2019”
 - o H.R. 3961 and S. 2289, “The Renewable Energy Extension Act”
 - o H.R. 4887/S. 1988, “The Offshore Wind Power Act”, and S. 1957/H.R. 3473, “The Incentivizing Offshore Wind Power Act”
 - o H.R. 2256/S. 1094, “The Driving America Forward Act”
 - o 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 prefabricated 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.