



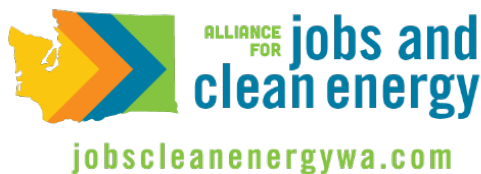
News of how working people are fighting for a planet that is sustainable -- environmentally, economically, and socially. If you like what we are doing and want to connect, please sign up for our newsletter and other information on the Labor Network for Sustainability website ([Sign up here!](#)). You are welcome to repost anything in this newsletter to spread the word!



Help us build a powerful national organization for workers and communities to confront climate change. Membership is open to anyone interested and who endorses our [mission and principles](#).

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## Washington to Hold People's Vote on Climate and Jobs



The Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, as part of the Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy, has filed a carbon fee and investment initiative

**I-1631** which Washington voters will decide in the November, 2018 election.

The initiative will:

- Protect communities' health and a better future for our children;

- **Invest in clean energy** like wind and solar, healthy forests, and clean air and water;
- **Create thousands of local jobs** in communities across the state while cutting pollution;
- **Establish a fee on the largest corporate polluters**, to make sure they are doing their fair share to protect our state;
- **Invest in high quality labor standards**; and
- **Give labor a voice in our changing economy.**

The initiative I-1631 is backed by the Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy, which represents working families, communities of color, environmental and clean energy advocates, health professionals, businesses, and faith organizations. For those who want to help collect signatures, here is where you can - [Volunteer Today](#)

For more information visit [YesOn1631.org](http://YesOn1631.org) or check out the Alliance [website](#) or [Facebook page](#) for updates.

Jeffrey Johnson, President of the Council, details how it will work:

**I-1631** is a critical policy for addressing climate change and for protecting and growing jobs for our unions and labor movement in Washington State.

**I-1631** will create cleaner air to breathe and cleaner water to drink for our grandchildren and future generations. But it will also create over a billion dollars a year of investments in creating infrastructure, clean energy, and natural resource jobs.

**I-1631** outlines investment criteria which gives preference to investments that pay prevailing wages, use apprenticeship utilization, sign community workforce agreements with local hire provisions, that use materials and products with low carbon content ("domestic content"), and where employers have complied with federal and state employment and health and safety laws and regulations.

Union labor will sit on the public Oversight Board and will co-chair the clean energy fund - the largest of the three funds created by I-1631. Two union members will also sit on the Economic and Environmental Justice Panel which oversees the \$50 million "Just Transition" account which provides wage and benefit (health and pension) replacement and retraining benefits to dislocated fossil fuel workers, including building trades workers contracted at the refineries.

Employment in energy intensive and trade exposed industries (EITEs), e. g., aluminum, steel, cement, pulp and paper, etc., will be protected. EITEs will be exempt from the carbon fee to prevent any leakage of jobs or pollution out of state. We want these good union industries to expand and prosper in Washington State.

**I-1631** will be like having an additional capital budget every year. The carbon fee will bring in about \$1.3 billion a year that will create thousands of public and private sector jobs at the same time we

improve the health of our air, water, forests, and communities by significantly lowering carbon emissions.

The transition away from fossil fuels has begun but without much labor input. I-631 changes that by placing union labor at the table with strong employment standards, strong investment criteria, and a strong voice. I-1631 is a win-win for the Washington State Labor Movement and for our public and private sector unions.

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## Learning about Labor

At the invitation of Greenpeace, in late March Michael Leon Guerrero and Joe Uehlein of the Labor Network for Sustainability conducted an eight-hour training on the American Labor Movement. Participants included leaders from Greenpeace and from Rainforest Action Network, Center for Biological Diversity, and [350.org](http://350.org).

This was a deep dive covering history, theories of trade unionism, structure, function, purpose, self-interest, relationships, and how best to engage. A special focus was provided for "fault-line" issues like climate change, fossil fuels, just transition, certain language (like leave it in the ground). Folks broke up into small groups to brainstorm campaigns, and pitfalls and possibilities. Greenpeace conducted a pre-training survey to gauge levels of knowledge about unions and to assess what folks most hoped to accomplish, and a post-training survey so we can fine-tune future trainings to make them most effective.

## [Download the Brochure](#)

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## Transit Equity Celebrated on Earth Day



Fifteen organizations around the country worked to make [Transit Equity](#) a part of this year's Earth Day celebrations, stressing the importance of fair and affordable public transportation as an integral part of full spectrum sustainability. A week of education and outreach, starting on the 16th and running through Earth Day, highlighted the need for public transit as a civil right and a strategy to combat climate change.

Understanding this, a just transition from the current transit system requires that we uphold worker and civil rights. This means that everyone should have the right and access to free (or at least affordable) public transportation regardless of age, race, or class. It also includes supporting the rights of workers to organize in the sectors that will build, operate and maintain public transportation infrastructure, as well as provide the services.

[Visit Here](#)

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## Divest Labor!

Union brothers and sisters are looking at their pensions and wondering about them. Will they be safe for their retirement years? Are they doing harm or good for our planet and social world? The movement advancing divestment from fossil fuel stocks from pension funds was born of those concerns.

Right now LNS is working to connect fossil fuel divestment efforts around the country. There is everything from full campaigns to initial thinking about creating a fossil fuel divestment campaign for a particular union. The [LNS Divest-Invest Hub](#) provides a guide to help unionists think through whether a divestment campaign is right for them and how to proceed. It includes lots of resources for creating resolutions, leaflets, talking points, ally development and full-fledged campaigns.

LNS's divestment committee is linking together the various groups and individuals who are interested in learning and sharing more on this effort. We have emails, phone conversations and phone meetings periodically to inform each other and share practices. Massachusetts, Philadelphia, New York City and New York State, Minnesota, Chicago, Austin and San Francisco are all in various stages of working on divestment from fossil fuels. There are probably many other locations and unions in which these efforts are bubbling up. Thinking through how we can advance investments that both protect our pensions and protect our planet will be a primary task of our work once we succeed in divesting some of the billions of dollars presently invested in fossil fuels in our union pension funds. If you or anyone you know wants to learn more about this work and/or join the LNS Divestment Committee, please contact me at [nancyromer@labor4sustainability.org](mailto:nancyromer@labor4sustainability.org) and we can start to think and work together

By Nancy Romer

*[Nancy Romer is a union and climate justice activist, a co-founder of the Environmental Justice committee of her union PSC-CUNY (AFT local #2334), and on the steering committees of Divest NY and Peoples Climate March-NY. She recently retired after 42 years of teaching at Brooklyn College, City University of New York and served on her union's executive committee for nine years.]*

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## New York Coalition Pushes Climate and Community Protection Act

NY Renews has helped develop the New York State Climate and Community



Protection Act, which would eliminate 100% of greenhouse gas emission by 2050. The bill includes strong and enforceable labor and equity provisions. It requires that resources are equitably reinvested in disadvantaged communities and that fair labor standards attached to projects receiving public funds meet fair labor standards.

Patricia Kane, an RN at Staten Island University Hospital and Treasurer of the New York State Nurses Association says:

"Whether it's coming out of smokestacks or tailpipes, fossil fuel combustion is a leading cause of the air pollution that makes New Yorkers sick. As nurses, we're on the front lines of the epidemics of asthma and respiratory disease that disproportionately impact children, the elderly, and low-income communities across the state. Transitioning New York's economy to 100% clean, renewable energy is critically important to the health of our patients and passage of CCPA will achieve that goal."

For more information about the bill and links to the text:

<http://www.nyrenews.org/what-we-do>

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## Puerto Rican Unions Fight to Keep Power Public

Hurricane Marie left Puerto Rico with no electricity. Four months later nearly half the people of Puerto Rico still had no electricity. Many energy companies and investors have seen the island's electrical system as a plum ripe for the picking. At the start of 2018, Puerto Rico's governor said he would sell off Puerto Rico's utility, PREPA. "Puerto Rico's Energy Future: Keeping Power With the People" by Sean Sweeney (*New Labor Forum* Spring, 2018, available [Here](#)) tells the story of union resistance to privatizing PREPA.



Ángel Figueroa Jaramillo, the president of Puerto Rico's principal power sector union, the Electrical Industry and Irrigation Workers Union UTIER says PREPA needs to be reclaimed *politically* to serve the public good. A reformed, transparent, and democratically controlled PREPA can then work with communities to develop distributed solar power under public and local-level control.

To see the proposals for the future of the power sector put forward by the power workers union UTIER, [Visit Here](#)

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We need your support to accomplish the work ahead. Your individual contributions will provide LNS with the resources we need for bold, independent action that will be necessary to accomplish our goals.

**DONATE**

Donate today to [Labor Network for Sustainability](#) and help us build a future that works for all of us.

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