



BlueGreen Alliance California Newsletter: January 2024

Welcome to the first issue of the [BlueGreen Alliance California](#) (BGA CA) newsletter! This will be a monthly newsletter from the BGA CA team dedicated to keeping you updated and engaged on the latest actions and next steps this coalition is taking to address the urgent challenges of climate change and economic inequality facing our state.

The [BlueGreen Alliance](#) (BGA) is a national partnership of labor unions and environmental organizations united to solve today's environmental challenges in ways that create and maintain quality jobs and build a clean, prosperous, and equitable economy. BGA's work is guided by the principle that we do not have to choose between good jobs and a clean environment—that the actions we take to create quality jobs and to protect working people and the environment must go hand-in-hand, and that together, we will build a clean, prosperous, and fair economy.

In California, our work has already seen decades-plus of progress at the intersection of labor and environmental advocacy. Progress that includes passing Buy Clean in 2017 and working to defeat Proposition 32—an initiative that would have suspended the state's landmark climate law—in 2012. Our portfolio of work in California has continued to grow, just as our consensus model between labor and environmental groups has become successful in state policy development.

Through this newsletter, we will share with you:

- Updates on BGA CA's policy initiatives, campaigns, and advocacy efforts.
- Stories and profiles of workers, environmental priorities, and communities that are leading the way towards a more sustainable and equitable future.
- Resources and opportunities to get involved and support BGA CA's mission and vision.

We hope that you find this newsletter informative and helpful in your work and to better understand the importance of building a clean economy by bringing labor and environment together. If you have any questions, comments, or feedback, please let us know: tchowdhury@bluegreenalliance.org.

Thank you for tuning into BGA CA! 🌍👤🌱

ICYMI:

New Mapping Data Shows The Extent of Clean Economy Supply Chains Across the US

This month, BGA released [an updated map of the clean economy supply chain](#) in the United States. The map features 1,156 U.S.-based facilities engaged in the production of the final clean energy products or the manufacturing of critical components for each supply chain. There are now nine clean economy supply chains represented on the map:

- Battery and energy storage,
- Efficient buildings,
- Electric grid,
- Electric vehicles (EVs) and EV charging,
- Electrolyzers,
- Offshore wind,
- Onshore wind,
- Rail, and
- Solar photovoltaic (PV).

As the map reveals, California is one of the top five states for clean economy manufacturing in the country. It illustrates the significance of federal investments like the Inflation Reduction Act in growing our domestic supply chains for clean energy. However, while these investments are creating jobs and opportunities across the country, we need to do more to create high-quality jobs that truly benefit communities and workers.

Following the release of this tool, **Jason Walsh, Executive Director of the BlueGreen Alliance**, noted, “The more we build up the U.S. clean economy the right way, the more good-paying manufacturing jobs there will be for our communities”.

Regulatory Update:

[SB 150](#) implementation is a top priority for BGA CA. The bill was signed into law during the 2023 session and aims to enhance California’s training pathways, community benefits, and quality jobs standards for federal infrastructure construction and manufacturing initiatives worth billions of dollars. The bill also [aligns with the federal initiatives](#) to enhance the state’s training and access pipeline for quality jobs and the application of community benefits on infrastructure and manufacturing investments. As directed by the bill, the Government Operations, State Transportation, Labor and Workforce Development, and Natural Resources Agencies have hosted workshops to solicit input from stakeholders to draft recommendations that embed workforce and other standards in state procurement and contracting practices, ensuring “that investments maximize benefits to marginalized and disadvantaged communities.”

BGA CA, along with its partners, the California Labor Federation, United Auto Workers (UAW), Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation (SMART), and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), participated in these workshops that concluded on Jan 25th. Our goal was to emphasize that

these public investments in infrastructure and manufacturing generate not just jobs but *high-quality* jobs with workforce standards that benefit workers and disadvantaged communities.

The inter-agency team will continue to take comments, and if your organization is a stakeholder and wants to ensure SB 150 lives up to its potential, send your recommendations to haitham@achangllc.com. For next steps, a presentation based on the findings from the stakeholder engagement will be given to the [California Workforce Development Board](#) on March 27. The deadline for the recommendations to the governor and the legislature is March 30, 2024.

Spotlight:

Fatima Iqbal-Zubair (CA Environmental Voters), BGA CA Table Co-Chair at COP28

Attending COP28 in Dubai, the largest COP in history and the first in the Middle East, was a remarkable experience. The conference achieved historic outcomes, including the establishment of a loss and damage fund for developing countries impacted by climate change and an agreement to phase out fossil fuels for net-zero emissions by 2050.

While there was progress on climate finance with significant contributions announced, these are still insufficient for supporting clean energy transitions and adaptation efforts in developing countries. The coming years are crucial, with a new climate finance goal needed at COP29 and updated national contributions aligned with the 1.5°C limit at COP30.



The loss and damages fund parallels our work in the BGA coalition, advocating for a clean, inclusive economy respecting workers' rights. This requires robust financing from federal and state governments to support unions and the workforce, especially if we are to help transition workers to the new clean industries.

Image: Fatima Iqbal-Zubair | Blue Green Alliance CA Co-Chair, California Environmental Voters
Mike Young | California Environmental Voters, Political Director
Christina Snider-Ashtari | California Tribal Affairs Secretary

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