



BlueGreen Alliance California Newsletter: February 2024

Welcome to the February edition of the [BlueGreen Alliance California](#) (BGA CA) newsletter! This month, we continued to advocate for policies and practices supporting workers and the environment in our state. BGA's goal is to build a clean, sustainable, and equitable economy and our work is more important than ever as California faces the dual challenges of a climate crisis and budget deficit. In this month's newsletter, we will share BGA's guide for companies to help them create Community Benefit Plans, some of the bills we are tracking, an update on SB 150 implementation, and a success story out of Kern County where clean and good-paying jobs are created through the big three federal climate and investment funds discussed next.

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BGA Releases User Guide to Help Companies Create Community Benefit Plan

BGA [recently released](#) a user guide that gives companies a leg up in the competitive process to access more than \$2 trillion dollars from the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, CHIPS and Science Act, and Inflation Reduction Act](#). The user guide includes a [step-by-step approach and resources](#) to help companies navigate the creation of comprehensive Community Benefit Plans. The plan includes over 100 resources on how companies can implement strong plans that benefit communities and show a commitment to creating good jobs and careers. BGA Executive Director Jason Walsh puts a finer point on it by stating, "The process to get the money in the door can be daunting but the benefits to companies, workers, communities, and our planet are undeniable. We want companies to make good plans, stick to them, and be rewarded for doing things the right way."

Legislative Update

BGA CA is tracking the following bills that were recently introduced:

SB 1182 (Gonzalez) Master Plan for Healthy, Sustainable, and Climate-Resilient Schools. BGA CA is tracking this bill that is bringing back SB 384 from last year to create a plan to decarbonize school buildings and create a healthy environment for students. The goal is to create a plan to identify the most efficient ways to make these updates for climate resilient schools.

SB 1375 (Durazo) Workforce development: poverty-reducing standards: funds, programs, reporting, and analyses. The bill sets aside 2% of federal funding received by the state to develop poverty reducing programs, support the development of poverty reducing labor standards, and funding apprenticeship programs in the building and construction trades. BGA CA is tracking this bill because of the potential for strong workforce standards and workforce training to be implemented for climate projects with federal dollars coming into the state.

Regulatory Update

SB 150 Implementation: On February 26, BGA CA testified in the joint hearing by the Senate Committee on Labor, Public Employment and Retirement and Senate Budget Subcommittee #5 on Corrections, Public Safety, Judiciary, Labor and Transportation to advocate for an inclusive and equitable implementation of SB 150 by embedding labor standards and community benefits requirements in state procurement and investment mechanisms. If implemented as intended, it would ensure that we have an equitable, high road workforce needed to build California's infrastructure and manufacturing projects to meet its climate goals. We emphasized the need for the state to go above and beyond the federal standards for workers and communities to see the full benefits of the public dollars.

Spotlight: Federal Dollars for Clean Energy Buildout are Creating High-Quality Jobs in CA's Central Valley

The Inflation Reduction Act which BGA advocated for, has sent billions of dollars into California to invest in a green economy that will help meet our climate goals. This unprecedented amount of funding for clean energy opens the door to address the climate crisis while creating good jobs, thanks to key labor provisions within the law California leads the nation in setting climate goals and must ensure that these goals do not leave any worker behind.



increased need for labor on climate-friendly projects.

IBEW Local 428 members in Kern County are seeing the benefits of federal funding firsthand with several renewable energy projects in development. For example, the Northern Orchard Solar PV Project in Kern County, a 1,100-acre initiative employing 184 IBEW members, is building a 150 MW solar plant and a 268 MW storage facility, with a 71% local hire rate—creating numerous good jobs. Local 428 has been able to expand their apprenticeship program due to the

Brandon Trevino is a first-year apprentice hired to fill the manpower needs of Northern Orchard. “This apprenticeship has been one of the best opportunities presented to me,” said Brandon. “If it weren’t for these Inflation Reduction Act-funded projects, I might have had to wait even longer to start my career as a union electrician.”

IBEW is entrusted with large projects such as this because their highly skilled workforce has a history of completing jobs successfully, and their strong relationships that ensure more quality jobs down the line. Projects like these are being built under Project Labor Agreements, which create union jobs. Investment in the renewable energy sector that creates family-sustaining jobs across California should be the standard for all climate projects.



We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and learning more about our work. If you have any questions, comments, or feedback on what you want us to cover, please let us know: tchowdhury@bluegreenalliance.org.

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