



BlueGreen Alliance California Newsletter: March 2024

Welcome to the March [BlueGreen Alliance California](#) (BGA CA) newsletter! Policy committees have begun ramping up hearings this month as we continue to work with our partners on ways to support workers and the environment in our state. In this month's newsletter, we will share information about the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) fund to reduce emissions at energy-intensive industries while supporting good-paying union jobs; an update on BGA CA's efforts to implement SB 150; and a spotlight on how essential the High Road Training Partnership (H RTP) program has been for California's labor and communities.

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The U.S. Department of Energy [announced \\$6 billion](#) in awards to 33 projects across more than 20 states through its Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations' Industrial Demonstrations Program (IDP). BGA [applauded the funding](#), having been an early advocate for its implementation. At least three of the projects will be based in California with up to \$700 million. These federal resources directed to California were made possible by initiatives in the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law championed by President Biden and Democrats in Congress.

The tranche of funding will help strengthen local economies across the nation and create and sustain tens of thousands of good-paying, high-quality jobs—particularly those that support worker organizing and collective bargaining. The award recipients were required to meet a robust set of criteria to ensure local communities and workers benefit from the proposed projects. Each project was required to submit a community benefits plan and nearly 80% of the projects are located in a disadvantaged community. The projects are projected to reduce carbon emissions by an average of 77%.

“The IDP is proof that President Biden and Democrats are invested in rebuilding U.S. manufacturing to be the backbone of our economy, helping workers get to and stay in the middle class with good union jobs and bringing equity and opportunities to communities that have been on the hurting end of the loss of manufacturing jobs,” said BGA Executive Director **Jason Walsh**.

Regulatory Update

SB 150 implementation: Last month, BGA CA testified to the Senate Committee on Labor, Public Employment and Retirement and the Senate Budget Subcommittee #5 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. Since then, BGA CA teamed up with Jobs to Move America and Environmental Voters to meet with legislators to emphasize the importance of strong workforce standards that create jobs with good wages and benefits and long-term career pathways that are essential for workers—especially in marginalized communities. On March 27, state agencies submitted their recommendations to the California Workforce Development Board. A coalition including BGA CA, the California Labor Federation, United Auto Workers, Environmental Voters, and Jobs to Move America attended the meeting to urge policymakers to adopt stronger standards on all publicly funded infrastructure and climate projects. [BGA CA believes](#) SB 150, if implemented to its full potential, represents a significant step forward in ensuring that our state's infrastructure and manufacturing investments create good-paying jobs through the historic public investments from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Inflation Reduction Act, and the CHIPS and Science Act. We will keep working with implementing agencies and legislators to ensure California's labor and communities benefit in a meaningful way from public investments.

Spotlight: Budget Cuts Threaten California's Vital Workforce Training Program Funding

By The California Labor Federation

The Governor's proposed budget for the next fiscal year includes a \$45 million dollar cut from the High Road Training Partnership (HRTTP) program. HRTTPs are cooperative agreements between labor unions, employers, and workforce development organizations that offer workers all-inclusive training programs that address professional growth, industry-specific knowledge, and technical skills.



Because it offers a viable pathway for individuals to pursue employment in clean energy and green manufacturing, the HRTTP program is crucial to both the creation of high-quality jobs and the achievement of the State's climate goals. Over the next ten years, the federal government will invest hundreds of billions of dollars on infrastructure, semiconductor manufacturing, clean energy, and associated industries. California requires a highly qualified workforce with the skills required to finish these projects in order to realize them and to develop a robust, green economy.

“The High Road Training Partnership program serves the critical role of producing the skilled workforce,” said **Cesar Lara**, Director of Workforce and Economic Development at the California Labor Federation. “An end to HRTTPs would have a noticeable impact on both the quality of the workforce and the economic vitality of our state. The budget cuts to this program are unacceptable, as they would jeopardize California's 370 million dollar investment since the start of HRTTPs in 2014.”

Taxpayers in California may suffer grave consequences if the HRTTP program is discontinued. Without these collaborations, California could have trouble recruiting the qualified workers

needed to carry out any significant efforts to combat climate change. As responsible members of society and guardians of our state's future, we must carefully weigh the ramifications of this move and fight to maintain funding and support for these vital initiatives.

If you want to learn more and/or want to join the dialogue on the future of the High Road Training Partnership program, fill out this [form](#).

We hope you enjoy reading 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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