

Community and Worker Protection & Transition

March 1, 2018



**SIERRA
CLUB**



Principles for Joint Action

- As we strive to achieve the state's science-based climate action targets, we must prepare for some inevitable shifts in where and how our economy produces certain goods and services.
- Together, the Sierra Club believes we must ensure:
 - Workers and communities affected by the phasing out of fossil fuels are treated fairly and justly, particularly given the burdens they have borne;
 - The jobs created by climate action programs and policies are quality, family-sustaining jobs;
 - Overburdened and underserved communities and constituencies receive equitable access to the benefits of clean energy-related economic opportunities
- It is clear that we need to work together with communities, industry, workers, unions, advocates, and public officials to shape and implement programs and policies that will create more resilient communities and adaptable economies.



**SIERRA
CLUB**

Challenges and Opportunities

- The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act includes specific protections for our workforce and economy, and now we need to act to ensure we achieve a just and equitable transition to the clean energy economy.
- Our current system can leave communities and workers with very little notice of facility closure, suffering unnecessarily as a result.
- We can look to other states for examples of successful and appropriate policies and programs to implement.

Examples

- Washington State:
 - 2011 legislation provided financial security to communities and workers facing retirement of a polluting power plant
<http://lawfilesexternal.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2011-12/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Laws/Senate/5769-S2.SL.pdf>
- Massachusetts
 - Funds directed to help towns temporarily alleviate loss of tax base from retiring power plants
 - <http://www.heraldnews.com/news/20171020/somerset-reaps-millions-in-funds-as-power-plants-shut-down>
 - Funding for reports on opportunities for economic diversification and reuse of retiring power plants
 - <http://files.masscec.com/research/MtTomReuseStudyENGLISH.pdf>
 - <http://files.masscec.com/research/SomersetReuseStudy.pdf>

Examples

- New York
 - Pace Energy & Climate Center Report on Transition Support Mechanisms for Communities
 - <http://digitalcommons.pace.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1009&context=environmental>
 - NY Renews Coalition advancing ambitious policies for clean energy and transition assistance jointly developed by labor, environmental, and economic justice groups
 - <http://www.nyrenews.org>
 - Revenues from ensuring polluters pay for carbon pollution would be primarily invested in overburdened and underserved communities for increased access to clean energy and community/worker benefit programs



What MWG Should Recommend

- A policy that provides workers, communities, and companies currently dependent on fossil fuels with lead time and funding to transition
 - Should include date certain by which certain polluting facilities like coal plants must be replaced, with funding for economic diversification and worker transition between now and those dates
- A policy that ensures greater access to benefits of future clean energy opportunities for communities and constituencies overburdened by pollution and underserved by our current system
 - Greater percentage of revenues from programs like Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative devoted to those purposes
 - Funding and requirements for things like project labor agreements and apprenticeships