



Canadian Labour Congress
Congrès du travail du Canada

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Drawing from **GREEN, DECENT AND PUBLIC**, a joint report by the Canadian Labour Congress and the Council of Canadians, this is one of a set of four fact sheets. These fact sheets aim to inform and activate actions supporting green job creation in Canada – check out the ‘**TAKE ACTION**’ section!

1. Opportunity in Crisis: Decent Green Jobs **2. Energy Efficiency and Renewable Power Potential** **3. Public and Community Ownership Examples** **4. Advantages of Public and Community Ownership**

1. OPPORTUNITY IN CRISIS: DECENT GREEN JOBS

Canada and the world must address climate change, the most urgent issue of our times. With current rates of fossil fuel consumption, the increase in global average temperature will lead to harmful global impacts over the coming century. We are also faced with a serious global economic crisis that requires decisive action. Canada is not immune – Canadian families and communities need decent jobs to be created and protected.

There is a broad-based, growing movement to recognize opportunity in crisis. This movement is identifying reducing emissions and addressing the climate crisis as an engine for decent job creation which fundamentally challenges the historic framework of pitting jobs or the economy against the environment.

WHAT IS A GREEN JOB?

A green job is any job that “greens” our economy. Three core sectors are typically identified for green job creation: energy efficiency and conservation, transit and high-speed rail, and renewable energy.

GREEN JOB CREATION IN CANADA

It could be argued that investments in any type of infrastructure and any type of energy would create jobs. However, “green” infrastructure investments, including the expansion of renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements, are a greater source of net job creation dollar for dollar than investments in traditional fossil fuel industries, tax cuts or investments to boost consumer spending. In fact, the average renewable energy investment creates four times as many jobs as the same investment in the fossil fuel economy.¹

Green infrastructure investments – especially those in energy retrofits and public transit – are labour-intensive and create many more jobs than personal and corporate tax cuts.

DID YOU KNOW?

CANADA IS FALLING FAR BEHIND THE GLOBAL CLEAN ENERGY BOOM. ACCORDING TO PEMBINA INSTITUTE’S ANALYSIS OF CANADIAN AND AMERICAN 2010 BUDGET DOCUMENTS, THE U.S. IS SET TO OUTSPEND CANADA, PER CAPITA, NEARLY 18 TO 1 ON RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MORE THAN 8 TO 1 ON CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS.² IF CANADA WERE MATCHING THE U.S. SPENDING PER CAPITA, AN ADDITIONAL 11 BILLION DOLLARS WOULD HAVE BEEN SPENT.³

HOW DO WE GENERATE EVEN MORE JOBS? BUY CANADIAN!

There are even greater economic benefits when investments in green infrastructure contain “Buy Canadian” procurement requirements. This is where investments are tied to a percentage of Canadian content inputs. For example, requirements to buy a percentage of Canadian steel for manufacturing wind turbines in Canada sustains more jobs and helps build more resilience in the Canadian economy.

TAKE ACTION: KEEP IT PUBLIC! GREEN JOBS NOW!

Talk to your municipal councillor: Is your municipality “greening” its buildings? Is there a municipal energy retrofit program, does it target low income households? Are there plans to own renewable power projects?

Talk to your provincial government representative: What are provincial plans for reducing reliance on fossil fuel generation and expanding public and community ownership and control of renewable energy generation? Is there a provincial retrofit program?

Talk to your federal government representative: Do they support a national plan for green house gas emission reductions and a national municipal retrofit program? How are they ensuring an end to federal subsidies for fossil fuels, tough energy efficiency standards and financial support for public and community-owned renewable energy projects?

Tip: There is a list of policy recommendations in Green Decent and Public that will improve energy efficiency and support public and community ownership. For more information about this topic, or to read the full report, Green Decent and Public please visit: the Council of Canadians at www.canadians.org/GDPreport and the Canadian Labour Congress at www.canadianlabour.ca

NOTES

Endnotes for this factsheet can be found online at www.canadians.org/GDPreport

DID YOU KNOW? ONTARIO'S GREEN ENERGY ACT CONTAINS LOCAL CONTENT REQUIREMENTS

THE GREEN ENERGY ACT GIVES ENERGY PRODUCERS ASSURED RIGHTS TO CONNECT TO THE GRID AND GUARANTEES THEM LONG-TERM PREMIUM “FEED-IN TARIFF” RATES THAT ARE ABOVE MARKET FOR DIFFERENT FORMS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SUCH AS WIND AND SOLAR. THESE PRODUCERS CAN BE PUBLIC, PRIVATE OR COMMUNITY-OWNED. TO GET THOSE RATES, PRODUCERS MUST MEET MINIMUM DOMESTIC CONTENT QUOTAS OF AT LEAST 25% FOR WIND PROJECT COSTS AND 50% FOR LARGE SOLAR PROJECTS. REQUIREMENTS FOR SOLAR WILL INCREASE ON JAN. 1, 2011 AND REQUIREMENTS FOR WIND WILL INCREASE ON JAN. 1, 2012.

THE RULES ARE WORKING. INDIAN MULTINATIONAL HHV SOLAR AND SOLAR BANCORP INC. OF CANADA HAVE DECIDED TO JOINTLY OPEN ONTARIO'S FIRST SOLAR PANEL MANUFACTURING CENTRE IN ECONOMICALLY DEPRESSED WINDSOR (ONTARIO). THE JOINT VENTURE RECEIVED \$4 MILLION FROM WINDSOR CITY COUNCIL AS INCENTIVE TO SET UP SHOP AND IT WILL HELP COMPANIES, MUNICIPALITIES AND OTHERS LOOKING TO CONTRIBUTE SOLAR TO THE GRID MEET THEIR LOCAL CONTENT QUOTAS. THE COMPANY WILL ALSO HIRE 200 ASSEMBLERS AND ENGINEERS FROM THE COMMUNITY.

TORONTO MAYOR'S TOWER RENEWAL

TORONTO IS A CITY OF TOWERS. THERE ARE OVER 1,000 RESIDENTIAL APARTMENT TOWERS FOUND ACROSS TORONTO, IN FACT, BETWEEN 1950 AND EARLY 1970s, APARTMENT TOWERS WERE THE MOST POPULAR BUILDING TYPE. TODAY, THESE CONCRETE SLAB TOWERS ARE AGEING AND INEFFICIENT. UNDER THE TOWER RENEWAL, THESE TOWERS WILL BE COVERED WITH EXTERNAL CLADDING TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY, APARTMENT TOWERS CLOSE TOGETHER ARE BEING CONNECTED THROUGH DIVERSE DISTRIBUTED ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION INCLUDING GREEN ROOFS, WIND TURBINES, SOLAR HOT WATER AND CO-GENERATION. THE PLAN CREATES LOCAL GREEN JOBS, IMPROVES THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS, REDUCES ELECTRICITY USE IN CONCRETE SLAB TOWERS BY 15% AND REDUCES GREEN HOUSE GAS EMISSIONS