

CT Green Jobs Coalition

We all know that Connecticut faces serious economic and financial challenges. We have an opportunity, however, to move Connecticut forward, begin the process of revitalizing our economy and position the state as a vibrant leader in the 21st century.

While the path to success will involve many components, a comprehensive approach to energy, transportation and natural resource management will be critical to that progress.

The following green sector initiatives would leverage federal, state and private dollars, put Connecticut back to work, grow the economy and help make our state a competitive, clean, vibrant and top-quality place to live, work and do business:

- ◆ Invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy to create jobs, revive our manufacturing base, clean our air and promote economic growth by reducing energy bills for consumers, businesses and municipalities.

Job and Economic Benefit: Every million dollars invested in energy efficiency programs creates an average of 41 jobs for electric, 45 for natural gas and 48 for oil and respectively contributes \$5.70, \$7.00 and \$7.10 to the state Gross State Product for every dollar invested. Using new program money in a way that attracts renewable energy technology manufacturers to the state would provide additional long-term benefits.

- ◆ Invest in creating a 21st Century transit system to remove barriers to employment, retain and create jobs, attract and keep young workers, revive urban areas and connect communities.

Job and Economic Benefit: Every million dollars invested in mass transportation creates 35 jobs and saves workers time and money. The bulk of the jobs would be construction initially, followed with continued employment for operators, mechanics, administrative staff and new jobs created by ancillary services, etc.

- ◆ Fix and upgrade decaying sewage treatment plants, invest in new treatment technologies and stormwater control systems to revive our cities, protect public health, clean our water and grow our economy.

Job and Economic Benefit: Every million dollars invested in upgrading water treatment infrastructure creates at least 10 new, direct, jobs. Additionally, investments in lower cost alternatives, like green-infrastructure and LID stormwater management strategies, have the potential to grow a new industry of landscape architects, stormwater engineers, and infrastructure developers here in Connecticut. Not only do both types of investment create jobs, they support local businesses and tourism by providing the clean water needed to open beaches and shellfish beds.

- ◆ Invest in habitat restoration and brownfield remediation and adopt policies that support sustainable forestry and agriculture to create green jobs that restore, protect and sustainably utilize Connecticut's valuable natural resources.

Job and Economic Benefit: Help retain 20,000 agricultural jobs, generate more than 300 new forestry-related jobs and create additional jobs in habitat restoration and brownfield remediation.

- ◆ Invest in Research & Development, Education and Workforce Training.

Job and Economic Benefit: We have a unique opportunity to help protect more than 30% of our trade and save businesses millions of dollars in hazardous waste disposal and workers' compensation fees through the creation of a Toxics Use Reduction Institute. We also see a pressing need for training programs related to renewable energy, water management, agriculture and forestry.

For more information, contact: Mczaczkas@cfenv.org or call CT Fund for the Environment 203-787-0646

American Farmland Trust • Audubon Connecticut • Clean Water Action • Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut • Connecticut Forest & Park Association • Connecticut League of Conservation Voters • Connecticut Fund for the Environment • Environment Connecticut • Environment Northeast • Rivers Alliance of Connecticut • Save the Sound • Sierra Club, Connecticut Chapter • The Nature Conservancy • Transit for Connecticut • Working Lands Alliance • 1000 Friends of Connecticut