

Governor Phil Murphy

ICYMI: U.S. Climate Alliance launches Governors' Climate-Ready Workforce Initiative, Aims to Train 1 Million New Registered Apprentices by 2035

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Gov. Jay Inslee, who co-founded the bipartisan U.S. Climate Alliance in 2017, joined his co-chairs and national climate advisor Ali Zaidi at Climate Week NYC to announce a new workforce initiative.

This initiative complements [programs already underway in Washington state \(https://climate.wa.gov/train-climate-career?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery\)](https://climate.wa.gov/train-climate-career?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) to help more people train for jobs and careers in clean energy, climate resiliency and restoration.

NEW YORK, NY — The U.S. Climate Alliance, a bipartisan coalition of 24 governors representing approximately 60 percent of the U.S. economy and 55 percent of the U.S. population, today launched the [Governors' Climate-Ready Workforce Initiative \(https://usclimatealliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/FINAL_USClimateAlliance_Climate-Ready-Workforce-Initiative_September-2024.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery\)](https://usclimatealliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/FINAL_USClimateAlliance_Climate-Ready-Workforce-Initiative_September-2024.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) to grow career pathways in climate and clean energy fields, strengthen workforce diversity, and jointly train 1 million new registered apprentices by 2035 across the Alliance's states and territories.

Today's announcement was made at a Climate Week NYC event featuring Alliance co-chairs New York Governor Kathy Hochul and New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, founding member Washington Governor Jay Inslee, and White House National Climate Advisor Ali Zaidi.

"In New York, we're showing how climate action and economic growth go hand-in-hand," **said New York Gov. Kathy Hochul.** "As a co-chair of the U.S. Climate Alliance, I'm proud to be collaborating with states, industry leaders, labor unions, higher education and community organizations to create the jobs of the future required to build a clean, equitable, and resilient economy. A skilled and well-prepared workforce will drive innovation, create new businesses, and ensure a sustainable, resilient future for our country."

"We need a climate-ready workforce — from EV technicians and heat pump installers to solar panel manufacturers — to meet our carbon reduction goals," **said New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham.** "The Executive Order I'm issuing today in conjunction with the Alliance's new Workforce Initiative will help ensure that workers from all backgrounds have access to the skills and training needed for high-quality, climate-ready jobs across New Mexico."

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“We’re aligning our ambitious climate policies with workforce development to have 1 million more workers poised to take these good-paying, union jobs that serve our communities and strengthen our economies,” **said Washington Gov. Jay Gov. Inslee.** “These are economy-wide jobs, not just in clean energy but building trades, land management, clean technology and more. Climate Alliance states have a track record of meeting our ambitious goals and that momentum continues today.”

“Under President Biden and Vice President Harris’s leadership, we are bringing down the barriers to economic opportunity, lowering costs for American families, and catalyzing a renaissance of American-made manufacturing that is creating jobs across America. In fact, just last year, we added over 250,000 new American energy jobs – with clean energy jobs growing twice as fast as the rest of the sector,” **said White House National Climate Advisor Ali Zaidi.** “Governors across America are at the forefront of our efforts to spur growth in union jobs, expand American energy production, and invest in the economic success of our communities. Today’s announcement will help capitalize on our momentum to create a climate-ready workforce that is rebuilding our nation’s infrastructure, communities, and industrial strength.”

The Initiative’s launch comes as historic federal investments, combined with ambitious state climate action, have unleashed a significant expansion of good-paying and union jobs in climate-ready fields – with millions more anticipated in the coming years under the Biden-Harris administration’s Inflation Reduction Act and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. This includes high-quality jobs not only in clean energy and clean technology sectors – such as wind, solar, electric vehicles, energy efficiency, and batteries – but also in fields associated with climate resilience and natural climate solutions.

Under this Initiative, Alliance states and territories will collaborate to collectively support 1 million new workers in completing Registered Apprenticeship programs across the coalition by 2035. These programs, registered with the U.S. Department of Labor or federally approved State Apprenticeship Agencies, provide an especially valuable and proven career pathway, empowering workers to earn while they learn in key climate-ready occupations and industries.

Alliance members will also advance a series of collective goals aimed at strengthening and expanding pathways into a wide variety of climate-ready professions critical to building a clean, equitable, and resilient net-zero future. The Initiative’s goals include boosting job quality and ensuring climate-ready employment pathways lead to good-paying, high-quality jobs; expanding opportunities for workers from underrepresented and underserved communities; and promoting the use of stackable and portable credentials in climate-ready fields to build transferable skills, support reskilling and upskilling, and strengthen workers’ economic mobility. A full [list of the Initiative’s goals can be found here](https://usclimatealliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/FINAL_USClimateAlliance_Climate-Ready-Workforce-Initiative_September-2024.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) (https://usclimatealliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/FINAL_USClimateAlliance_Climate-Ready-Workforce-Initiative_September-2024.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).

Finally, to advance sector-specific strategies, Alliance members will work together through new multi-state cohorts focused on in-demand, climate-ready fields. These cohorts will provide a platform for states and territories to increase collaboration, share evidence-based practices, engage experts and stakeholders, and develop sectoral workforce solutions that can be scaled across the country. Cohorts to be launched in the Initiative’s first year will focus on careers in the following areas:

- *Clean Energy, Fuels, and Technologies:* Led by Michigan and New Jersey, this cohort will focus on careers in the design, construction, and maintenance of a clean, affordable, and resilient power system; the manufacturing and deployment of zero-emission vehicles and technologies; and the development and distribution of alternative, low-carbon fuels.
- *Clean Buildings and Industry:* Led by Maine and Massachusetts, this cohort will focus on careers in the engineering, design, construction, retrofitting, maintenance, and operation of buildings and industrial processes that are clean, energy-efficient, healthy, and resilient.

- *Resilient Communities and Lands*: Led by Arizona and Vermont, this cohort will focus on careers in the development and maintenance of safe, livable, and resilient communities; preparedness for and response to climate impacts such as extreme heat, wildfires, severe storms, flooding, and drought; and the deployment of natural climate solutions and climate-smart stewardship of our lands and waters.

The Initiative will be led by Alliance [states and territories \(https://usclimatealliance.org/members/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery\)](https://usclimatealliance.org/members/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery), with support from the Alliance's [Secretariat \(https://usclimatealliance.org/member-support/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery\)](https://usclimatealliance.org/member-support/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). In implementing the Initiative, Alliance members will customize efforts to meet their individual needs and challenges, while working together to achieve the collective goals. States and territories will also collaborate directly with their workforce development system partners, labor unions, higher education institutions, industry, and other key partners that bring substantial expertise and experience in this work.

This Initiative builds on a number of federal-state collaborations between the Alliance's members and the Biden-Harris Administration, including a White House convening with Alliance governors' offices in May focused on [creating good-paying jobs and mobilizing a diverse workforce in climate and clean energy \(https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2024/05/09/readout-of-white-house-convening-on-advancing-a-climate-ready-workforce/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery\)](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2024/05/09/readout-of-white-house-convening-on-advancing-a-climate-ready-workforce/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).

Additional information on the [Governors' Climate-Ready Workforce Initiative can be found here \(https://usclimatealliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/FINAL_USClimateAlliance_Climate-Ready-Workforce-Initiative_September-2024.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery\)](https://usclimatealliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/FINAL_USClimateAlliance_Climate-Ready-Workforce-Initiative_September-2024.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).

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