

# THE NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR CLIMATE SOLUTIONS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – CONTACT BOB DOPPELT, 541-744-7072, [bob@trig-cli.org](mailto:bob@trig-cli.org)

## **ASSESSMENT SAYS REFUSAL TO REDUCE EMISSIONS IS DESTROYING AMERICAN JOBS AND SACRIFICING FUTURE ECONOMIC WELLBEING**

*Report Calls On Congress and the Obama Administration to Establish a Transition Plan to Help Industries, Communities, and Workers Affected by Emission Reductions*

March 26, 2013 – (Washington, DC). A new report produced for the National Partnership for Climate Solutions\* (NPCS) says that when, in the name of protecting jobs, members of Congress and other elected officials oppose policies that cut greenhouse gas emissions or fail to directly engage in Americans in emissions reductions, they destroy as many jobs as they save.

The report titled *Jobs vs. Jobs: The Refusal to Rapidly Cut Greenhouse Gas Emission Is Destroying Jobs, The Economy, and The Climate* says that the failure to cut emissions is destroying jobs right now in many sectors of the economy and sacrificing the growth of millions of future jobs that our children will depend on.

Rather than blocking emission reductions, the report says a more responsible approach would be to establish transition plans to help workers impacted by emission reductions obtain family-wage jobs in the “restorative economy.” This includes jobs increasing energy efficiency, developing renewable energy, reengineering processes, products, and services; rehabilitating and building climate resilience in buildings and other infrastructure; and restoring natural landscapes.

“The economics of climate disruption is actually a choice between jobs vs. jobs, not jobs vs. the environment,” said Bob Doppelt, Executive Director of The Resource Innovation Group, a co-author of the report and a coordinator of the NPCS. “Elected officials can choose to protect jobs that are undermining the economy and the climate, or they can expand jobs that enhance the economy and reduce climate change.”

“Action that delays reductions in greenhouse gas emissions accelerate the economic harm caused by climate disruption and will destroy more jobs than it protects,” said Ernie Niemi, lead author of the report and an economist with Natural Resource Economics, Inc. “Elected officials don’t face a choice between protecting jobs and preventing climate disasters — the best thing they can do is act quickly to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide more jobs for American workers.”

“We have a moral obligation to quickly reduce emissions to protect the economy and the climate,” concluded Doppelt. “But we also have a moral responsibility to help workers impacted by emission reductions make the shift to new jobs. A transition plan should be a top priority of the Obama Administration and Congress.”

### **Summary of Some Of The Key Findings**

- Climate disruption induced extreme weather events such as Superstorm Sandy are directly impacting jobs. For example, Sandy caused tens of thousands of job losses as businesses were flooded, physically damaged, or destroyed. In addition, the ongoing historic drought has cost more than \$35 billion in the Midwest alone so far, pushed up the price of many commodities, and forced many farms and food processing firms into bankruptcy.
- Fossil fuel use leads directly to job losses. For example, according to one study air pollution from coal-fired power plants in the U.S. accounts for more than 1.6 million lost workdays, with the total financial cost of related health impacts exceeding \$100 billion annually.
- Rising heat and humidity caused by the past emissions of greenhouse gasses have reduced workers’ productivity in southeastern states by about 10 percent during the summer months, which on an annual basis is equivalent to the loss of about 1.25 million jobs.
- Two different studies have concluded that climate disruption has already reduced annual GDP in the US by 1–5%, which means that between 0.3–1.7 million jobs have already been permanently destroyed. If emissions are not rapidly reduced, the additional job losses in the US over the next ten years would total 60,000–300,000.
- The coal, oil, and gas industries receive cash subsidies estimated to be \$52 billion per year, which contributes to job losses. One 2002 study estimated that the phase out of fossil fuels and shift to clean energy would have generated a net increase in jobs of 600,000 by 2010 and 1.4 million by 2020.
- The failure to aggressively reduce greenhouse gas emissions sacrifices the growth of jobs in emerging industries. Google, for example, concluded that aggressive adoption of clean energy technologies could generate 1.1–1.9 million new jobs but said “a mere five year delay could cost the economy an aggregate \$2.3–3.2 trillion in unrealized GDP gains...by 2050.
- The report concludes that the President and Congress should rapidly develop national economic transition plans that slashes greenhouse gas emissions, greatly expands clean renewable energy, and compensates workers impacted by these changes and helps them obtain jobs in the emerging “restoration economy.” These can be thought of as jobs in industries that begin with ‘Re’: reducing energy use through greater efficiency; developing renewable energy; reengineering processes, products, and services to reduce their energy and carbon intensity; rehabilitating buildings, infrastructure and whole cities to enhance their livability and increase their resilience to climate impacts; restoring agricultural and forest lands, & more.

**The full report can be accessed here:**

<http://www.theresourceinnovationgroup.org/storage/npcs/Climate%20Disruption%20is%20JobsVsJobs%205-10-13%20Final.pdf>

- **The National Partnership for Climate Solutions** (formerly the Climate Summit 2013 Coalition) is a unique broad-based non-partisan coalition of business, farm, insurance, finance, former military, youth, civil rights, climate justice, evangelical and other faith organizations committed to demonstrating to elected officials and others that Americans from all walks of life support solutions to climate disruption. A solutions-focused national climate summit hosted by the President in partnership with officials from both parties, linked with action-planning meetings hosted by governors, mayors, business, civic and faith leaders nationwide is one of the NPC's top priorities. For more information see: <http://www.theresourceinnovationgroup.org/natpcs>

#