

As California moves towards a carbon neutral future, it is essential to plan and manage the economic transition to ensure that impacted workers and communities will be supported. In the San Francisco Bay Area, two of five of the existing oil refineries are in the process of planning and preparing to retool and transition their facilities to other industrial operations, which is already impacting thousands of workers and community residents. This project will bring workers and community leaders together in a forward-looking process to identify shared values, vision, and plan for a prosperous future in the Contra Costa region.

This project is focused on ensuring that the workers and communities in Contra Costa County who are most impacted by the transition from fossil fuels to a clean economy are prepared for the future. Led by the BlueGreen Alliance, the project will convene frontline refinery workers, community residents, and other stakeholders to develop a shared vision for a diversified regional economy. Through economic and collaborative workforce development planning, this project will ensure that the regional economy provides equitable, inclusive access to high quality jobs and economic mobility.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A regional partnership between frontline workers and communities, labor and workforce research and policy experts, local government, workforce and economic developers, equity advocates, and other stakeholders that will work together to develop a vision and plan for high road economic development and diversification in Contra Costa County.
- Participatory action research, including surveys of impacted workers and communities.
- Research on topics including refinery transition scenarios and impacts, modernization, retooling, and shutdowns; economic diversification pathways and other manufacturing industries to invest in; refinery workers' needs; community needs; health, air, climate, economic and tax implications; safety net tools and resources.
- Actionable proposals that reflect the coalition's shared vision with short, medium, and long term strategies for high road economic and workforce development to support impacted workers and communities.

KEY PARTNERS

- BlueGreen Alliance
- United Steelworkers
- Asian Pacific Environmental Network
- California Labor Federation, Workforce and Economic Development Program
- Contra Costa Labor Council
- UC Berkeley Labor Center, Green Economy Program
- Inclusive Economics

