

Rebuilding America With a Clean Energy Economy

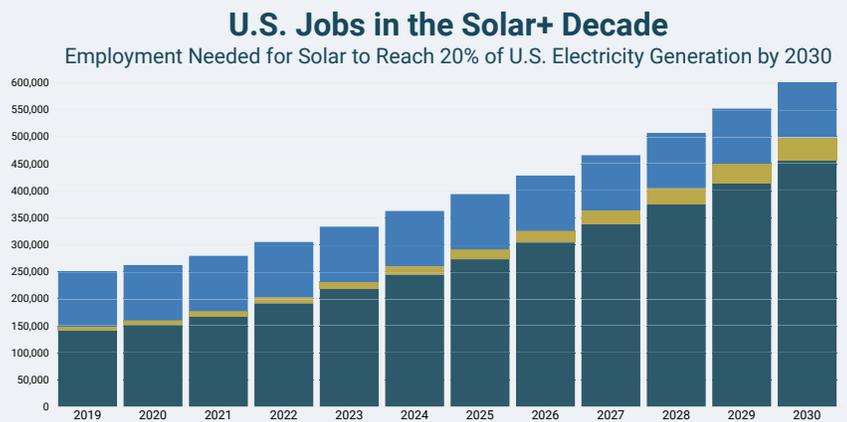
As Congress looks to put Americans back to work in response to the COVID-19 crisis, the clean energy economy offers an enormous opportunity. Clean energy industries such as solar were among the fastest-growing sectors of the economy before the pandemic hit, with significant potential to create new jobs and spur the investments that are needed to put the U.S. back on track.

Over the last five years, the U.S. solar industry added jobs at a rate 5 times higher than the national average, employing 250,000 Americans at the end of 2019. Before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, solar was on track to add 100,000 workers this year. Instead, the industry has lost more than 70,000 jobs since late February. With the right policies in place, the solar industry is poised to put hundreds of thousands of Americans back to work.

Four Ways Solar Can Build a Better Post-COVID Future

1 By Creating Hundreds of Thousands of U.S. Jobs

Putting the U.S. solar industry on path to reach 20% of generation by 2030 will add nearly 400,000 well-paying American jobs in all 50 states.

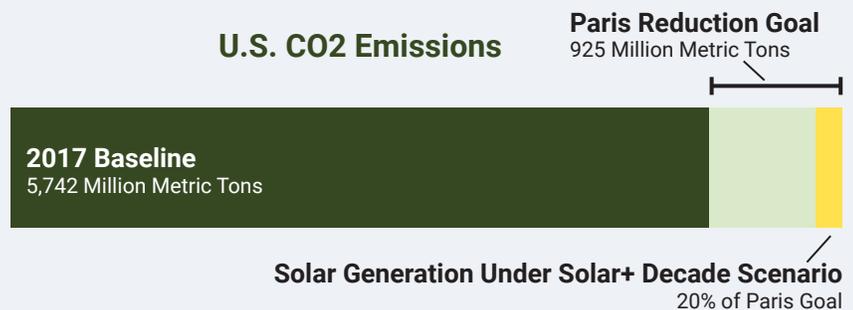


2 By Building a 21st Century Grid & Investing in Local Communities

Deploying more clean energy technologies like solar will result in a more resilient and reliable electricity system, while injecting billions into local economies.

3 By Addressing Climate Change & Securing Our Future

The U.S. can account for 1/5 of its goal within the Paris climate accords just by deploying enough solar to reach 20% of generation by 2030.



4 By Lowering Bills for American Consumers

Solar costs have fallen by more than 70% over the last decade. Utility-scale solar is now cost competitive with all other forms of electricity generation.

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Federal Policies that Can Enable Solar to Lead U.S. Economic Recovery

Adjust the Investment Tax Credit to Encourage Long-term Growth



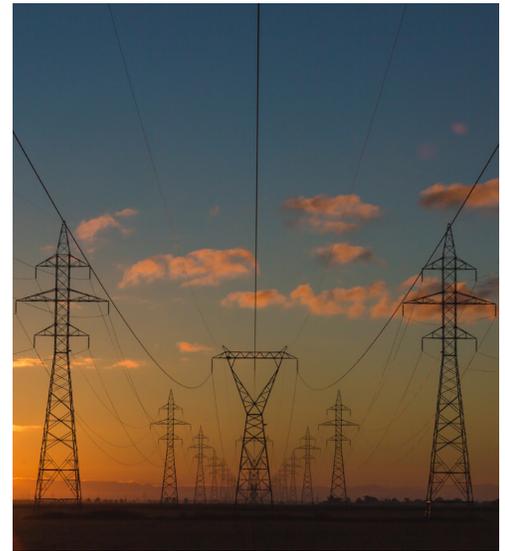
The solar Investment Tax Credit (ITC) is a policy mechanism with bipartisan support that has helped create hundreds of thousands of U.S. jobs and fuel billions of dollars in investment. For solar companies to lead the economy out of an economic slump, modifications to the ITC are required.

- Establish a temporary 100% direct pay program for the ITC, to ensure steady financing in the midst of the crisis
- Delay the current phase down of the ITC by pushing out deadlines, including start of construction and placed-in-service dates

Modernize the Grid and Invest in Electricity Transmission

Investments in our nation's electricity infrastructure are a critical component of the long-term growth of clean energy. Policy proposals include:

- Directing FERC to evaluate interregional transmission planning to account for the power market's move toward renewables
- Federal funding for microgrid projects for remote communities to expand clean energy access for all
- Federal investment in transmission projects that transport clean renewable energy to load centers and upgrades to existing interregional transmission lines
- Tax credits for regionally significant transmission lines
- Streamlining the interconnection process for large-scale solar



Streamline Permitting & Inspection for Clean Energy



Streamlining the permitting and inspection process for solar projects could save homeowners and businesses thousands of dollars. Policy proposals include:

- Expand federal support and funding for the Solar Automated Permit Processing (SolarAPP) program
- Additional infrastructure project permitting proposals, such as FAST 41, can help accelerate growth in the clean energy sector



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Expand Access to Clean Energy for All Americans



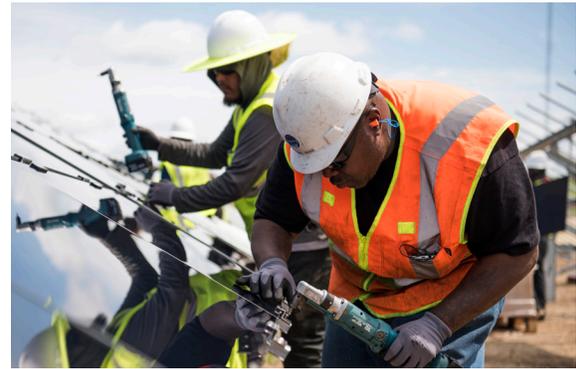
Ensuring low-cost electricity access for all communities, especially those hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic, should be a key focus of any long-term infrastructure or stimulus effort. Policy proposals include:

- Federal grant programs for installing distributed solar energy systems, including small community solar projects
- Expand federal funding for rural energy projects, including modernization and investment on tribal lands

Training the Next Generation of a Diverse Solar Workforce

It is imperative that the solar workforce reflects the diversity of our nation and that solar job opportunities are available in all communities. Policy proposals include:

- Expanding training programs through the Department of Energy, including initiatives that recruit women and people of color to careers in the clean energy sector
- Federal grants to support on-the-job training or pre-apprenticeship programs for careers in renewables, energy efficiency, grid modernization or the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- Continued support for programs, such as Solar Ready Vets, that assist military veterans and transitioning service members find careers in the solar industry



Bringing Clean, Affordable Power to Non-Profits & K-12 Schools



Investing in our public education institutions through energy upgrades is a win-win approach that can create jobs and local economic investment, while reducing electricity bills for K-12 schools, allowing them to devote more resources to their students. Policy proposals include:

- Energy efficiency and renewable energy retrofits for K-12 schools, including competitive grants for school retrofit projects
- Including green schools projects as an eligible use of state recovery funds
- Providing non-profit buildings and institutions with renewable energy and other energy efficiency upgrades



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Federal Policies that Can Enable Solar to Lead U.S. Economic Recovery

Additional Programs & Policies to Stimulate the Solar Economy

- Authorizing federal agencies to enter into long-term contracts for energy from renewables and cogeneration facilities
- Tax credits for investments in advanced energy manufacturing
- Tax incentives based on emissions output profiles of energy technologies
- Clean Renewable Energy Bonds for renewable energy projects, including solar
- Establishing a federal Green Bank
- DOE funding earmarked for research, development, and demonstration projects
- Funding for energy generation, transmission, and energy efficiency projects on military facilities
- Funding to build, repair and renovate federal buildings to increase energy efficiency, including installation of solar energy



For more information about SEIA's work on COVID-19 stimulus and federal infrastructure policy, contact Shaun Garrison at sgarrison@seia.org or visit www.seia.org/covid-19

