

Just Transition Working Group, Public Engagement Session
February 3rd, 2021
1pm-3pm

Attendance:

Working Group Member Attendees

Roberta Reardon, Co-Chair
Doreen M. Harris, Co-Chair
Commissioner Visnaukas
Vincent Albanese
Omar Freilla
Henry A. Garrido
Patrick Jackson
Gary LaBarbera
Michael Padgett
Brian Raley
James Shillitto
Maritza Silva-Farrell
Lara Skinner
Randy Wolken

Other Attendees

Adele Ferranti
Alan Marzullo
Amanda Kogut-Rosenau
Arianna Menzelos
Brian Raley
Chris Hall
Chris Pinheiro
David Quickenton
Don Applyrs
James Barry
James Wilcox
Jamie Dickerson
Jane Thompson
John B. Rhodes
John Williams
Kara Allen
Kate Muller
Mark Coleman
Michael Padgett
Michaela Boren
Randy Wolken
Tania Allard
Ted Skerpon
Tonya Gale
Yvonne Martinez

Meeting Summary:

- **Welcome & Introduction**
 - Commissioner Reardon kicked off the meeting and provided an overview of the meeting agenda. President Harris then highlighted the members of the working group and reviewed the JTWG scope. See slides 2 – 4 for additional details.

- **Clean Energy Industry Trends**
 - Phil Jordan of BW Research provided an overview of the New York Clean Energy Industry Report, including employment trends resulting from COVID-19. See slides 4 – 15 for additional details.

- **Panelist Presentations**
 - Commissioner Reardon introduced each presenter:

- i. **NEW (Nontraditional Employment for Women)**
 - Amanda Kogut-Rosenau provided an overview of NEW, the programs offered, and eligibility for participants. See slides 18 – 25 for additional details.
 - ii. **32 BJ**
 - James Barry and Michaela Boren provided an overview of the 32 BJ training fund, NYSERDA funded activities, and key training approaches & models. See slides 27 – 38 for additional details.
 - iii. **Green City Force**
 - Tanya Gayle provided an overview of Green City Force program model, including the Service Corps and alumni network. See slides 40 – 58 for additional details.
 - iv. **IBEW 43**
 - Alan Marzullo provided an overview of IBEW 43 apprenticeship program.
- **Public Input Session**
 - Commissioner Reardon introduced the public input session and provided an overview of the framing questions and procedures. See slide 61 for the framing questions.
 - Key points made by commenters:
 - i. **Commenter #1:** Appreciated the way Phil Jordan and BW Research framed workforce development and that NSYERDA has allowed them to explore this. They want to emphasize the continuing evolution of our understanding of clean energy and associated jobs. He appreciated the re-focused attention that so much of this work is carried out by skills that already exist in existing occupations. He appreciated that these folks are acknowledged for playing an important role in the clean energy economy. There is a continued push among his organization and partners to close the gap around offshore wind between what the industry will need and the sort of preparedness exercises happening at the school level and within the supply chain. Some of the modes we saw today hold loads of promise, so he looks forward to continuing to connect with these partners.
 - ii. **Commenter #2:** These were great presentations and she is very interested to look at the study. She had thoughts to share about each framing question but wanted to focus on two things she sees as a challenge:
 - She has been working with workforce in renewable energy space since 2007 starting with solar. There are many opportunities with respect to new policies but wanted to focus her comment on offshore wind. She wanted to emphasize that these are not new jobs that require all new skills. There will be a good percentage of people from the fossil fuel industry that have the existing skills that we need.
 - The apprenticeship models we saw today are fantastic models to bring people specifically from disadvantaged community on board. If you're interested to know what they're doing in the offshore wind space, please look up Farmingdale State College Renewable Energy and Sustainability Center.
 - iii. **Commenter #3:** Training programs are great, and I really like the term green collar. It's a great classification for the green economy.

- iv. **Commenter #4:** It's wonderful to see this event be put together. There are huge opportunities in the coming years. IBEW is in a good position to help develop the workforce needed to make this transition. He is looking forward to it and working together.
- v. **Commenter #5:** His comment was focused on maintaining existing jobs in NYS, including manufacturing jobs. Multiple Intervenors is a collection of 60 large energy consumers. As large consumers of electricity, these members are subject to state decarbonization policies and associated energy costs. Many of their members have taken aggressive actions to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions through renewable energy, energy efficiency, and other strategies. They'd like to work with the Climate Action Council and Working Groups to ensure the CLCPA is implemented as transparently as possible while ensuring reliability of the electricity and natural gas system. Many members are concerned about the unknown impacts of CLCPA compliance. They would like to ensure the definition of what is considered an Energy-Intensive and Trade-Exposed entity is focused on reducing leakage to protect manufacturing jobs. To that end, the EITE definition should at least incorporate all energy/emissions intensive industries that are trade-exposed that would have been included in past regulations. NYSERDA staff have identified several examples from which to draw the EITE definition and industries covered by these prior pieces of legislation should be included. He may follow up with written comments.
- vi. **Commenter #6:** He pointed out points in the presentation that included connectivity to trades and noted an example program at Mohawk Valley Community College. He made a few points:
 - He felt strongly, having been on a manufacturing workforce subcommittee, that it's important to recognize those transferable skills and help people working in manufacturing pivot in line with supply and demand in the market.
 - He pointed out the ongoing need for supply and demand information shared amongst our entire ecosystem to be more agile to reposition people going through training.
 - The program discussed today in NYC is to be commended for the work they've done with woman and would like to create mentorship models for those entering sectors where they are underrepresented. He would like to see more of that.
- vii. **Commenter #7:** He appreciated the presentations and is involved in much of the same training work but did want to note that the biggest challenge is electrification. Many workers in NYC work for plumbing/heating contractors. The transition to a new model for those contractors is a challenge and supporting this workforce is a challenge. He wanted to remind everyone that it's a very big challenge and it's good to see NYSERDA taking that challenge on.
- viii. **Commenter #8:** This commenter spoke as a member of the public. She has been watching the progress of the JTWG over the months and is excited.
 - She is concerned that there has been a lot of talk about early retirement or pension benefits for workers in the fossil fuel industry who might be able to leave their jobs ahead of schedule. She thinks there should be some distinguishing factors between workers and executives. Anyone who's been

in a decision-making capacity should not be rewarded for destruction of the environment.

- She is also concerned that she's heard a lot of industry groups discuss prioritizing workers from traditional industries and this may hinder jobs going to frontline communities which is a mandate of the CLCPA.
 - She also noted a larger issue is how these programs are going to be funded. If we want to expand into environmental justice communities, it will need a lot more funding. She wants to encourage all participants to champion the Climate and Community Investment Act.
 - She also suggested if the JTWG holds another public comment session, they consider having the public comment section of the agenda first.
- ix. **Commenter #9:** This commenter shared that he works as Director of Clean Energy Programs at Network for Sustainable Tomorrow in Binghamton.
- When looking at transitions from power plant jobs and others that are likely to be eliminated, we might want to look at some areas where we have huge needs in new energy economy (i.e., heat pumps, power engineering, design/installation).
 - One of the concerns we know has been expressed is making sure new jobs pay as well as old jobs. The value stack is often not robust enough to support good wages. We will need to see a more robust value stack for solar in general so those jobs can have prevailing wage.
 - Final and most important, he is concerned there isn't a presence of the traditional STEM ecosystem such as K12 educational, SUNY, BOCES. There is no integration between educational system and efforts being made here. The jobs study should look at this and research what assets New York has and what they need. He echoes previous speakers support of CCIA as a funding stream.
- x. **Commenter #10:** She wanted to commend everyone for this event. She wanted to know whether there would be more opportunities to look beyond funding for entry-level type of positions. This is important and plays a huge role for youth, but once they are able to get job readiness skills, she would love to see the JTWG look at ways to accelerate leadership positions and managerial roles within the clean energy economy.
- xi. **Commenter #11(Written Comment):** How do we BOCES to include training programs to get students the hands-on training just referenced? I have approached my local Orange BOCES asking for a green jobs track program. It appears that it could overlay other programs so only a few new classes in solar/wind would be needed. Fantastic programs in the Albany and Adirondack areas. Would appreciate any help.
- xii. **Commenter #12 (Written Comment):** My public comment was emailed on January 27, 2020 but I do not know if it was received so I will decline speaking and post my comment here: Dear Climate Action Council Just Transition Working Group, Thank you for taking public comment at the February 3 just transition working group meeting. I would like my email submitted to the official record of the meeting. I am a concerned citizen and land owner abutting Eden Renewables proposed two 5MWac solar power resources located at 13590 Duanesburg Road, Delanson, Schenectady County. It is my experience the renewable energy developers establish

their own construction companies. They hire workers that will move from one project to the next. While this may streamline the process for the developer it can lead to out-of-state workforce that deprives our local communities and state workers from obtaining jobs. This video of the Cassandga Wind power resource documents that the majority of vehicle license plates from the.... It appears there is a technical glitch and the words are garbled. I will resend my email to climateact@dec.gov.ny

- xiii. **Commenter #13 (Written Comment):** I have to leave but I want to make my comment and show support for some Items that were discussed today: Prioritizing people in frontline communities, Indigenous community members , formerly incarcerated New Yorkers, women in non-traditional trades, immigrants, and people coming off of unemployment for jobs building our renewable energy economy. Commitments to support the growth of Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises (MWBs) and cooperatives by ensuring access to contracting and procurement opportunities in all sectors of the economy in our transition off fossil fuels. Supporting early retirement and pension support for any fossil fuel workers displaced by the transition to a renewable energy economy. Thank you for considering my suggestions!
- xiv. **Commenter #14 (Written Comment):** Can you manufacture the heat pumps here in NYS instead of purchasing units from overseas? I have seen steam retrofits that have reduced energy use 50% (Dan Halohan society of tradesman and craftsman building NYC) There is a need for steam education that could reduce energy use. Why is this not considered for a transition phase?

- **Next Steps & Close Out**

- Commissioner Reardon thanked everyone for their feedback and provided an overview of next steps, including:
 - i. Additional feedback and comments can be shared by sending to JTWG@nyserda.ny.gov.
 - ii. The next JTWG meeting is scheduled for February 23, 9-11am.