

LOCAL BLUE COLLAR JOBS FOR A GREEN FUTURE

Tens of thousands of San Franciscans are working hard to support their families and community. But despite their efforts and determination, increasingly many are becoming unemployed or bogged down in low-wage jobs with poor benefits and few opportunities for advancement. As San Francisco's jobless rate swells to 8 percent, with over 36,100 more people unemployed this January alone, the near future looks dismal with future projections of more job losses. These striking figures do not account for the thousands of underemployed, part-time and informal sector workers comprised largely of immigrants, women, youth, people of color and older adults. The current \$787 billion American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) offers a hopeful opportunity in steering our Country and City onto the path of sustained economic recovery.

San Francisco workers and their communities have much to gain. With the Mayor's pledge to invest in clean energy and green sector industries, the federal recovery plan can create hundreds of green jobs locally over the next few years. It is imperative that new green job opportunities put local people back to work in equitable jobs that pay union-scale wages, provide adequate benefits, and offer a career ladder towards advancement. As stimulus dollars move our local communities ahead, investments should adhere to ARRA's accountability and transparency guidelines. This means the beneficiaries of the stimulus should not solely be corporations, but San Francisco's economically distressed communities, particularly young, immigrant, people of color, and older workers. Stimulus funds need to be used smartly, not just in shortsighted community investments, but in long term community development and community building. In making decisions about how to spend our local stimulus dollars, we propose the following principles to guide advocates and policymakers:

1. *Quality Jobs* with family supporting/union scale wages, benefits, safe and healthy working conditions, including a significant investment in permanent *public sector job opportunities*, as well as jobs in *locally* owned, locally serving enterprises with accountable business practices.
2. *Jobs for working San Franciscans*, in particular populations that have historically been excluded and underrepresented in the City's economic development efforts, i.e. immigrants, youth, middle age dislocated workers, and women.
3. *No corporate subsidies for brown projects with green masks*. If a project or development places a community at risk of toxic exposure, our city should not promote it, subsidize it, or include it as part of our green economy. A truly green economy cannot be achieved through greenwashing.
4. *Promote Sustainability*. Green projects should reflect environmental justice principles that promote environmental and health protections and foster sustainable use of resources.
5. *Public Accountability*. There should be timely and accurate reporting, accounting, and disclosure of the City's return on its investment. The real benefits to working class communities must be assessed through specific criteria for percentage and quality of jobs created relative to stimulus dollars invested.
6. *Career ladder job opportunities*. The city needs to need to improve *quality, local, on-the-ground workforce development programs* that will recruit, train, hire, retain, and advance local workers for all job opportunities created through the stimulus money.
7. There should be *significant, meaningful community input* for our local plan to spend stimulus dollars and build our green economy, and *transparency* in how much money is available and how it is allocated.
8. Our City agencies should *focus on the needs of our workforce*, and provide support only to those key industries and small business that create job opportunities for local working class San Franciscans.
9. Our city should be a leader in *redefining how our local green economy* is applicable to a whole range of job opportunities in a variety of sectors, such as transportation, affordable housing development, renewable energy, food systems, water, infrastructure, waste management, public health, public works, and gardening/landscaping.