



Why the Clean Energy Jobs Act?

The members of the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition support the Clean Energy Jobs Act, the only comprehensive energy package in Springfield. The Clean Energy Jobs Act reduces air pollution (including climate-warming carbon pollution), unlocks \$39 billion in new private investment, lowers Illinoisans' utility bills, creates significant new jobs and wealth-building opportunities, and prioritizes the needs of our most vulnerable people and communities.

Other energy bills address at most only one or two of the energy challenges Illinois faces, and no other package provides as many financial and environmental benefits for the state. Illinois cannot afford to address these issues piecemeal. We cannot risk an approach that is more expensive, that is written by and for utilities, that does not prioritize equity, or that fails to respond to costly federal fossil fuel bailouts.

Key Factors to Consider

We urge legislators to ask four questions about any energy legislation they are considering:

1. Does it reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions enough to protect our health and do our part in addressing the global climate crisis?
2. Does it protect Illinois from the economic and health impacts of the Minimum Offer Price Rule, a fossil fuel bailout pushed by Trump administration appointees?
3. Does it ensure that every dollar spent on energy is working to achieve a state priority, like building more renewables and reinvesting in communities across the state?
4. Most importantly: does it equitably distribute benefits to communities that have for too long borne disproportionate burdens from air pollution, climate change and costly energy?

ICJC Positions on Other Proposals

Ameren bill (HB5673/SB3977)

It is encouraging to see Ameren discussing clean energy and electric vehicles, but unfortunately this bill does not make any substantive progress on those issues. It would allow Ameren to grow its profits with little oversight, limit access to solar energy, cannibalize cost-saving energy efficiency programs, and stifle the Governor's bold vision for Illinois' clean energy future.

The bill would do the following:

- Extend the formula rate for another decade, increase Ameren's profit margin, and reduce ICC oversight on their spending.
- Increase the renewable portfolio standard just 7.5% but raise customer rates. The unambitious increase proposed in Ameren's bill falls well short of Governor Pritzker's goal of 100% clean energy, and well below what would be needed to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.
- Allow Ameren to drain money from energy efficiency programs and spend it on electric vehicle infrastructure. We should expand access to electric vehicles but must not do so at the expense of energy efficiency programs, which save consumers \$4 for every \$1 spent and which at last count supported more than 88,000 jobs in Illinois.
- Gut programs that allow people in central and southern Illinois to get solar panels on their roof or subscribe to power from a solar farm. Everyone in Illinois deserves the same access to clean, affordable solar energy.
- Reverse deregulation, minimize competition, and give Ameren a near-monopoly on clean energy development in central and southern Illinois. Further, since Ameren earns a return on its capital spending, the utility would earn even greater profits on these competition-squashing investments.

Vistra bill (HB 5663/SB 3848)

This bill is a handout for Vistra but does virtually nothing to support workers and communities impacted by the ongoing, market-driven transition away from coal.

Vistra's misleading rhetoric about transition aside, it primarily does two things:

- Allows Vistra to collect up to \$140 million per year from Illinois ratepayers to continue running its coal plants but provides no support to workers and communities impacted by plant closures. Illinoisans should not be forced to give a handout to an out-of-state company operating dirty coal plants that are increasingly uncompetitive with cleaner sources of energy.
- Allows Vistra to develop solar and energy storage facilities without competition and at significantly above-market rates, while setting no requirements for how those developments would help communities impacted by the transition away from coal or other vulnerable Illinoisans. Our state has a brownfield solar program established in the

Future Energy Jobs Act, which anyone can submit bids to – there is no reason to recreate a non-competitive, high-priced version of this program just for Vistra.

Path to 100 (HB2966/SB1781)

Path to 100 is a similarly intentioned – but less ambitious and narrower – version of the renewable energy section in the Clean Energy Jobs Act.

It would:

- Increase Illinois' renewable portfolio standard to 40% by 2030. As with Vistra's bill, this is well short of the Governor's publicly stated goal, and short of the targets in the Clean Energy Jobs Act: 45% by 2030 and 100% by 2050.
- Implements a range of technical fixes to renewable energy development and funding, including fixing the shortfall in renewable energy procurement and avoiding the solar "cliff." These fixes are generally warranted and welcome.

Unfortunately, it does not:

- Prioritize equity in the clean energy economy by, as CEJA does, expanding access to and job opportunities in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and clean transportation
- Support communities and workers impacted by the transition away from fossil fuels
- Protect Illinoisans and environmental justice communities from air pollution
- Protect Illinois consumers from the Minimum Offer Price Rule, a costly fossil fuel bailout pushed by Trump appointees on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- Expand energy efficiency or clean transportation options in Illinois

The members of the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition agree with the Governor that Illinois should pass clean energy legislation which "reduces carbon pollution, promotes renewable energy, and accelerates electrification of our transportation sector," and puts "consumers and climate first."

The goals of the Path to 100 are admirable, if limited. There is a place for them within the context of broader clean energy legislation, but on its own, the bill falls far short of the equity, climate, and consumer goals that Illinois needs and the Governor has said he wants.

Summary

The key to CEJA is its holistic nature – CEJA maximizes the benefits of every dollar invested by carefully harmonizing it with every other investment. Now more than ever, it is imperative to stretch every dollar, reduce customer bills, and minimize air pollution that causes respiratory illness and catastrophic climate change.

Without action, Illinois customers will see higher energy bills; coal communities will be left vulnerable to economic distress; Illinoisans will continue to breathe dirty, dangerous air; and renewable energy development, which supports tens of thousands of jobs in our state, will come to a halt.