



## BlueGreen Alliance California Newsletter July 2024

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Welcome to the July [BlueGreen Alliance California](#) (BGA CA) newsletter! We hope everyone has been enjoying the summer months. BGA's work the past month has included creating a fact sheet on a new Inflation Reduction Act clean energy tax credit and a fact sheet on attaching labor standards to Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) recipients. Our focus was also on reviewing the final state budget and hosting our annual retreat for all our partners.

### **ICYMI**

The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), made possible by Inflation Reduction Act, represents a \$27 billion federal investment into the clean energy economy. Much of the funding, \$20 billion, has been awarded to a handful of national coalitions through the National Clean Investment Fund (NCIF // \$14 billion) and Clean Communities Investment Accelerator (CCIA // \$6 billion). An analysis commissioned by BGA concluded that *state green banks and other sub-recipients can attach additional labor standards to NCIF and CCIA funds they receive from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.*

NCIF and CCIA will redistribute this financing through state green banks, community development financial institutions, and credit unions. Priority projects for this \$20 billion financing include net-zero buildings, zero-emission transportation, and small-scale energy generation and storage. This can potentially open opportunities for additional union jobs in California from federal funding.

Read the full fact sheet [here](#).

### **Budget Update**

BGA CA worked hard with our partners to restore funding in the state budget for the High Road Training Partnership (H RTP) fund, which is essential for training skilled workers for a new clean energy workforce. We are excited to say these critical funds are reflected in the final budget Governor Newsom signed last month.

"State leaders have invested substantially over the years in creating the High Road Training Partnerships, which have been a highly successful collaborative model for workforce and economic development," said **Josh Sonnenfeld, BlueGreen Alliance Senior California Strategist**. "The announced budget deal secures critical funding to keep this innovative work going, benefiting workers and our local communities. We thank Governor Newsom and the legislature for

their ongoing commitment to advancing job quality, equity, and environmental sustainability as core pillars of economic success."

The press release is on the [BGA Website](#).

### **Regulatory Update**

CARB released [draft funding guidelines](#) for agencies administering California Climate Investments. This new update includes workforce development standards in accordance with [AB 680](#) that requires grant programs funded by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) to meet fair and responsible employer standards and provide inclusive procurement policies.

### **Spotlight: BlueGreen Alliance's California Coalition Retreat**



This month, BGA CA hosted our annual retreat aimed at fostering deeper solidarity among coalition partners and enhancing our collective understanding of each member organization. Our primary objective was to examine solidarity within and beyond the coalition and to ideate effective strategies for future collaboration.

Representatives from a diverse array of organizations participated, including the Environmental Defense Fund; Sierra Club; United Steelworkers; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW); California Environmental Voters; Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART); Natural Resources Defense Council; Communications Workers of America; and California Federation of Teachers.

One of the central goals of BGA is to build relationships between labor unions and environmental groups so we can build transformative power as California transitions to a clean economy. Our partners participated in a variety of activities and conversations to deepen relationships and strategize on how this coalition can be the most effective in the future.

These dialogues opened avenues for understanding different perspectives on a wide array of issues, ultimately allowing the group to identify potential collaborative pathways that support both environmental sustainability and workers' welfare.

Thank you to all our partner organizations that contributed to the success of this event!



*Special shoutout to EDF's office mascot, Axel.*

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Thanks for reading! If you have any questions, comments, or feedback on what you want us to cover, please let us know: [tchowdhury@bluegreenalliance.org](mailto:tchowdhury@bluegreenalliance.org).

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*The BlueGreen Alliance (BGA) unifies labor unions and environmental organizations into a powerful force working for an economy that fights climate change, protects the health of people and the environment, stands against economic and racial inequality, and creates and maintains good-paying, union jobs in communities across the country.*

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