



**BlueGreen Alliance California Newsletter  
January 2026**

2026 has been off to a difficult start for many amidst the authoritarian overreach from Trump in Minneapolis and beyond. BGA believes deeply in solidarity and standing together in the face of the atrocities committed in our communities. I hope everyone is able to come together and find some solace in the work we all do during this tumultuous time.

BGA CA is back with some updates on our work, kicking off 2026 with an update on our efforts to highlight the negative impacts of last year's budget reconciliation bill on the communities represented by those who voted for it, an update on a decarbonization workshop led by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), and a spotlight on our coalition's in-person meeting and tour of SMART Local 104's apprenticeship facility in Northern California.

**Highlighting the Harm of the Budget Reconciliation Bill**

Workers across the country have faced direct negative impacts due to Trump's 2025 Budget Reconciliation Act. BGA is working across the country to shine a light on the impacts of that bill on communities represented by Congressmembers who supported the bill. The repeal of critical tax credits has already led to the loss of thousands of jobs, and the Trump administration takes action every day that negatively impacts working communities, claws back funding and approval for clean energy and infrastructure projects, raises energy prices, and increases pollution.

If you or someone you know is facing the consequences of these actions, especially in Congressman Valladao's or Congressman Kim's districts, please reach out to Franki Gracey, [fgracey@bluegreenalliance.org](mailto:fgracey@bluegreenalliance.org) for more information on joining BGA in amplifying the stories of those negatively impacted.

**Regulatory Update: CPUC Building Decarbonization Workshop**

The CPUC hosted a Building Decarbonization Best Practices workshop in San Francisco to discuss lessons learned and strategies for future building decarbonization programs. A highlight of the workshop was the emphasis on workforce strategies to ensure successful decarbonization. Some elements of a high road strategy include requirements for prevailing wage and a skilled-and-trained workforce, project labor agreements (PLAs), and specialty subcontractor requirements to ensure safe, efficient installations, including the trades in program implementation planning. An untrained workforce poses many risks to decarbonization efforts, including safety risks as well as incorrect installations that undermine the effectiveness of new electric appliances.

More information on the workshop can be found [here](#).

### **Spotlight: BGA CA Tour & Meeting at SMART Local 104**



The BGA CA coalition convened this month to tour one of SMART Local 104's apprenticeship facilities to learn about their various apprenticeship programs and how climate and clean jobs are intrinsic to their program. We heard from union representatives about how the core of SMART's work is HVAC and heat pump work and how this is an essential part of the energy transition for California.

BGA convened representatives from the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), CA Federation of Labor Unions, Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), United Steelworkers (USW), Sierra Club, California Federation of Teachers (CFT), CA EnviroVoters, CA State

Association of Electrical Workers, and Industrious Labs to learn more about policies to support the heat pump industry and to also learn more from each other on organization's priorities for the year and how we can work together best as a coalition. We plan to build off our work in industrial and manufacturing policy from last year into the legislative session as well as explore engaging in new topics. More to come as the legislative session picks up.

BGA strives for public dollars to invest in high-road, quality jobs that will help California meet our decarbonization goals. The facility tour was a great learning opportunity on how union work is an essential piece of the state's transition to a clean economy.

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Thanks from the California team!



If you have any questions, comments, or feedback, please let us know:  
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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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