



Launching our Economic Recovery

The Apollo Alliance's Principles for Success in the Clean Energy & Green Collar Economy

The \$787 billion American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) offers an enormous opportunity to jump-start America's economy and launch this country onto the path of economic growth and prosperity. With an unprecedented investment in clean energy, the Act has the potential to create millions of green jobs over the next two years. However, as written, it contains few federal guarantees that new green jobs will be new *good jobs*. This means federal agencies, states, cities, and – perhaps most important – green jobs advocates will be ultimately responsible to ensure that these dollars are spent in a way that truly moves America toward a sustainable economy with broadly shared prosperity.

The Apollo Alliance offers the following core principles to guide advocates and policymakers as they struggle to implement the ARRA at the national, state and local levels. By adopting these principles, policymakers will maximize the economic development and growth opportunities of new dollars flowing into our states and communities. In addition, adopting these principles will generate political support and economic momentum for building a clean energy, good jobs economy over the long term.

- **Create Quality Green-Collar Jobs and Economic Growth.** The Apollo Alliance has defined green-collar jobs as “well-paid, career track jobs that contribute directly to preserving or enhancing environmental quality.” In thinking about how to spend ARRA dollars on clean energy, efficiency, and transit projects, policymakers should ensure that, wherever possible, the accompanying jobs meet this definition, are local, and allow for career advancement and an entry into America's middle class. Such strategies should include attaching job quality standards to all public investments, funding high quality green-collar jobs programs, and approving projects that create green jobs for unemployed, underemployed, and dislocated workers. This “high road” strategy will create both short- and long-term economic growth for America's businesses, workers, and communities.
- **Ensure Transparency and Accountability.** The ARRA includes many important requirements for transparency and public accountability at the federal level. In keeping with these requirements, policymakers at the state and local level should also take measures to ensure the highest possible degree of transparency and accountability, so

that local taxpayers know how the money is being spent and can track each project's progress. Such measures should include creating state recovery websites with detailed reporting on contracts awarded by state and local governments, and convening state-level, multi-stakeholder bodies charged with monitoring and oversight of stimulus spending. A transparent and accountable process will ensure the wise use of public dollars, maximize productive and responsible economic growth, and increase public trust in government.

- **Benefit All Workers and Communities.** Recovery Act investment should focus on ensuring broadly shared prosperity for all workers and communities. Special emphasis should be placed on lifting up those who have been most affected by the economic crisis and those who are often excluded from economic opportunities. In particular, investments should be targeted toward creating jobs and environmental benefits in low-income communities, heavily polluted areas, and areas with high layoff and unemployment rates. These investments should also focus on ensuring training and employment opportunities for a broad spectrum of local workers with a wide range of skills. Training investments should focus on creating career ladders that allow un- and underemployed workers to access higher-skilled jobs in the clean energy economy, and on providing new training for those transitioning to more modern technology.
- **Rebuild America Clean and Green.** Regardless of the project, every ARRA dollar should be spent in a way that promotes climate stability and energy security by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and our overall dependence on foreign oil. For transportation infrastructure projects, policy makers should 'fix-it-first,' prioritizing repair and upgrade projects and expansion of public transit. For environmental cleanup and restoration, investments should focus on projects that increase urban density and return vacant land to sustainable, productive use. These investments should also prioritize those areas that have been hardest hit by environmental degradation, by providing targeted assistance to individuals and communities suffering disproportionate health, air and water quality impacts. For all building construction projects, policymakers should go beyond federal minimums and apply basic energy efficiency and "green building" standards to all projects using federal stimulus dollars. Policymakers should also take maximum advantage of available loans, rebates, and tax incentives to include renewable energy systems wherever possible in construction and infrastructure projects. Renewable energy investments should be concentrated among the cleanest and most cost-effective strategies, and reduce carbon emissions and oil dependence by incorporating American-made component parts.
- **Create Green Jobs at Scale:** The best way to create long-term economic growth is to do projects at a scale large enough that they can create multiple jobs and job training opportunities. Policymakers should focus on combining stimulus programs and scaling up projects in a way that maximizes job opportunities in particular fields, such as energy efficiency retrofitting or solar panel installation. Doing these projects at scale – for instance, aggregating energy efficiency funds to retrofit an entire neighborhood of houses – makes the projects last longer and gives workers longer-term opportunities in these green industries. It also allows businesses to achieve the economy of scale necessary to pay decent wages and provide benefits, and allows job training programs to create career ladders into these professions for low-skill job seekers.