

Be Green

A job lost here, a job lost there – why does it matter so much? Ten years ago, if my neighbor was unexpectedly laid-off from her job at a software manufacturer, I would have been shocked. Unfortunately now, my response would be a meager “Oh.” Minimal surprise. Minimal sympathy. Borderline apathy? This type of reaction is what should awaken us all to the economic realities of our current world. As the unemployment rate continues to creep upwards, job loss has become commonplace and sympathy for others has been replaced with a worry about whether your job will be the next to go.

In order to regain our American morale and pride in these difficult economic circumstances we must be able to get these jobs back for people – back for America. You citizens have elected me to lead you to a brighter economic future with higher job security and as I had promised, I will bring that to you with a green economy.

These innovative technologies which can be incorporated into the economy will not only provide us with safer renewable energy sources to power our industries, but also create millions of green-collar jobs. These 6.3 million jobs that can be created in six years will range from construction to management to finance to agriculture and they will begin sewing up the gaping hole made by unemployment. Eventually, as the benefits of a green economy settle and industries begin making higher profits as a result of the new solar and wind harnessing technology, manufacturers will reach out and hire more people creating even more jobs.

It is important that the government finally step into the area of energy management with an aggressive role because the economy is in dire need of green-collar jobs. In order for necessary change to happen, more government regulations of greenhouse emissions by corporations and the federal promotion of green technologies must be actively implemented. Concepts such as cap and trade emissions programs should be pursued and enforced by the government. America, green will come to you and we will work together to get it here.

One of my first steps as President will be to implement a Smart grid system which will digitalize the transfer of electricity from the plant to the consumer. Changing to such a system rather than power lines will immensely save energy and increase efficiency. One study from the United States Department of Energy predicts that over the next twenty years, between 46 and 117 billion dollars can be saved with this network alone. The development of this technology and construction of the grid will also create green-collar jobs across the United States. And having the entire nation connected by a Smart grid with sensory abilities and resistance to attack can prevent mass power-outages similar to the one in 2003.

The Smart grid system can also help ease the issue of global warming due to the enormous amounts of energy that are saved when using the digital system. Our long-term goal as a nation should be in some way to curb the impending effects of global warming by switching to a green economy. If energy sources such as fossil fuels are continually used, the problem will only accelerate. Therefore, it is important to change to the Smart grid as well as increase promotion of hybrid cars and vehicles powered by alternative fuel

sources such as corn ethanol and hydrogen. These greener cars have far less green house gas emissions and will not aggravate global warming as would standard cars.

Fighting global warming is essential in this economic crisis because if the problem is not tended to now, it will be even more difficult to confront in the future. If it is allowed to worsen, air quality will decrease leading to health issues such as respiratory disorders, rising temperatures will create unsuitable environments for living, and sea levels may rise due to the melting polar ice caps. Each sector which will be required to combat global warming – technology, power distribution, automotive industry – will also lead to the creation of millions of green-collar jobs to ease current unemployment.

Confronting our economic issues with a greener approach is so essential because it will not only provide our nation with jobs to decrease short-term unemployment rates, but it will also ensure America a better future. If these green technologies such as a Smart grid and hybrid and alternate fuel cars are adapted now, our children will hopefully have a cleaner atmosphere with safe temperatures and normal sea levels to look forward to. Green is the color of change and we need this to bolster our economy. And it is also easy for citizens to be involved in this change. If we work together, each person just recycling one can or buying one energy-saving light bulb can create a huge cumulative effect.

We can do this America. We can come out of this economic situation and lie back successfully on the bed of a green economy. We can create jobs, green technologies, and policies. Take pride and have confidence, America, because we can change.