

# GREEN ENERGY TRANSITION IN WEST VIRGINIA



Use this QR code to check out our website for more info

URL: <https://sites.google.com/vt.edu/green-energy-transition-wva/home>: Click on our section headers to take you to that specific page on the website!

## 2/3 OF IN-STATE & 10% OF OUT-OF-STATE STAYED IN WVA

Even though West Virginia contains the beloved West Virginia University, many out-of-state students obtain degrees there and then leave the state to pursue opportunities elsewhere.<sup>1</sup>

## 23% EMPLOYED IN LOW-WAGE JOBS

The labor force participation in the state is the lowest ranked state with 53% of the state's adult population either working low-wage jobs or looking for work, and has been in this position since at least 1976.<sup>2</sup>

## OTHER PLANS:



### Illinois Future Energy Job Act:

Preserved \$1.2 billion in economic activity

Created thousands of jobs in green energy<sup>3</sup>

### New Mexico Energy Transition Act:

Reduces electricity costs for residents

Provides \$40 million to communities<sup>4</sup>

Plans to shift to renewable energy sources will change the job market outlook<sup>5</sup>

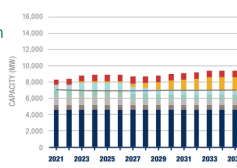
The energy transition and job automation will increase the demand for high skilled workers in the renewable energy industry.<sup>5,6</sup>

## TIMES ARE CHANGING

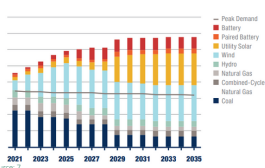
### Local West Virginia Energy Utility Renewable Energy Plan

#### APPALACHIAN POWER: PATHWAY TO 2035

##### CONTINUED COAL DEPENDENCE

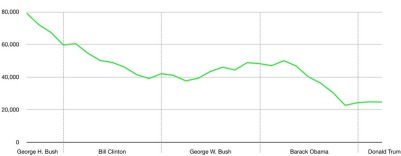


##### RAMPED UP RENEWABLES



## Central Appalachia Coal Mine Employment

Annual employment for Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia



NOTE: State-by-state employment numbers include only operator jobs and do not include contractor employment due to the way those numbers are reported to BLS.  
Source: Mine Safety and Health Administration.  
Graphic by Alexandra Karia

Source: 9

## RETRAINING

As coal employment is declining, there is a need for retraining to help these workers sustain employment. Retraining programs like Coalfield Development and Solar Holler help retrain coal workers to work in the green energy industry. Coal workers that retrain to work in solar energy could expect a 7%-10% salary increase depending on their position.<sup>8</sup>

## SOURCES:

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- <https://hbr.org/2016/08/what-if-all-u-s-coal-workers-were-retrained-to-work-in-solar>
- <https://wfp.org/rethinking-retraining-why-worker-training-programs-alone-wont-save-coal-country/>

## GOALS:

- Increase job opportunities
- Decrease poverty
- Improve education
- Protect the environment
- Protect worker health