

Gulf Coast Civic Works Act: “Green” Jobs to Rebuild America’s Gulf Coast Communities

No region of the United States has a greater need for rebuilding its infrastructure and restoring its environment than America’s Gulf Coast. The Gulf Coast Civic Works Act funds “green” resident-led recovery projects, building on the success of community organizations in Gulf Coast recovery, to help meet the overwhelming unmet needs of the individuals, families, and communities devastated by hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, and Ike. The program would be a pilot project administered by the Office of Gulf Coast Recovery and Rebuilding using a hybrid model to partner directly with communities in planning, overseeing and administering recovery projects to assist the survivors of these disasters, provide communities with tools to build resilience against the impact of future disasters and revitalize the region economically. The bill would create a minimum of 100,000 prevailing wage jobs and training opportunities for local and displaced workers on projects reinvesting in infrastructure and restoring the coastal environment utilizing emerging green building techniques and technologies. This program would empower residents to realize their right to return with dignity and create stronger, safer, and more equitable communities.

Rebuilds Vital Public Infrastructure and Restores the Environment

- Rebuilds and repairs vital infrastructure including schools, police and fire stations, hospitals, parks, roads, water and sewer systems, workforce housing, and cultural centers.
- Builds equitable flood protection and restores natural flood protection such as barrier island, marshes and wetlands that defend the livelihood of coastal families and billions of dollars of Gulf Coast commerce, including a majority of our nation’s energy infrastructure.
- Enhances energy efficiency and conservation to save on energy costs and eliminate carbon emissions to better protect vulnerable populations from the effects of climate change.
- Serves as a national model for building on the strength of community action and engaging residents in disaster recovery and sustainable economic development.

Creates Good “Green” Jobs and Provides Job Training

- Creates 100,000 good wage jobs and training opportunities for Gulf Coast residents and encourages contractors to provide opportunities for apprenticeship and on-the-job training.
- Encourages cutting edge green building techniques and technologies to minimize carbon emissions and energy needs, preparing workers and businesses for this growing industry.
- Creates a Civic Conservation Corps for young workers to train a new generation to restore the coastline and provide much needed economic opportunities for area youth.

Spurs Equitable and Sustainable Community Development

- Encourages equitable development engaging community leaders and local officials to determine projects based on community needs through innovative local advisory councils.
- Focuses benefits locally through first source hiring provisions for locals and displaced.
- Engages community organizations in federal development and recovery projects.
- Strengthens workforce by providing jobs, much needed skills training and additional funding for community colleges and training facilities.
- Creates contracting opportunities for local businesses.

Requires Accountability and Community Oversight

- Works with the Office of Gulf Coast Recovery and Rebuilding to provide oversight and transparency, give logistical and administrative assistance, and allocate funding to the local communities through a resident-driven grant-making process.
- Involves communities in overseeing contractors to avoid waste and fraud.

For More Information about the Gulf Coast Civic Works Act contact:

Darren Fenwick, ACORN
(202) 547-2500 legrep5@acorn.org

Jeffrey Buchanan, RFK Center
(202) 463-7575 x241 buchanan@rfkmemorial.org

The Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign is a non-partisan partnership of community, environmental, labor, student, and human rights organizations advocating for the Gulf Coast Civic Works Act.

Support the Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign by:

- Having your organization endorse the campaign, email buchanan@rfkmemorial.org to endorse.
- Urging members of President Elect Obama's Transition Team to support an Executive Order authorizing Gulf Coast Civic Works Projects under the Federal Office for Gulf Coast Recovery and Rebuilding.
- Urging your Senator and U.S. Representatives to support an appropriation bill for Gulf Coast Civic Works in the second stimulus package

Supporters of the Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign:

National:

African American Ministers in Action
Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now
Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America
Bread for the World
Catholic Charities USA
Carmelite NGO Congregation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
The Center for Leadership and Learning
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Christian Community Development Association
Christian Disaster Response
Christian Reformed World Relief Committee
Church of the Brethren
Church of God in Christ, Office of the Presiding Bishop
Churches Supporting Churches
Clergy Strategic Alliances
ColorofChange.org
Common Cause
Committee on Social Action for Reform Judaism
Community of Christ
Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago
Episcopal Church
Episcopal Network for Economic Justice
Environmental Partnerships
Every Child Matters Education Fund
Every Church a Peace Church
Faith in Public Life
Franciscan Justice and Peace Office, Province of St. John the Baptist
Franciscan Action Network
Gamaliel Foundation
Gulf Coast Civic Works Project
Holy Cross International Office
Hip Hop Congress
Interfaith Alliance
Interfaith Worker Justice
Institute for Southern Studies
Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Islamic Society of North America
Jewish Council on Public Affairs
Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
Korean Presbyterian Church in America
Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns
Mennonite Mission Network
Mennonite Central Committee
Middle Collegiate Church, New York, NY
Moravian Church in America, Southern Province
Moravian Church in America, Northern Province
National Alliance of Vietnamese American Service Agencies
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
National Council of Churches
National Community Development Institute, Palo Alto, CA
National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference
National Ministries, American Baptist Church
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
Network of Spiritual Progressives
Nueva Esperanza
Oxfam America
Pax Christi USA
PICO Network
The Poverty Initiative, Union Theological Seminary, NY
Presbyterian Church USA
Rabbis for Human Rights
Reconstructionist Rabbi Association
Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism
Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights
Sacred Heart Community Service, San Jose, CA
Samuel Dewitt Proctor Conference
Sojourners
Southern California Board of Rabbis
The Shalom Center, Philadelphia, PA
Sisters of Charity of New York, Office of Justice and Peace
Speak Truth to Power
Student Hurricane Network
TIKKUN
Union of Black Episcopalians

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
Unitarian Universalist Association
United Church of Christ
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
World Hope International
World Vision

Gulf Coast:

ACORN Louisiana
Alabama Appleseed Center for Law and Justice
All Congregations Together, New Orleans, LA
Americans for Gulf Coast Recovery
Bay Area Women's Coalition
Bayou Area Readiness and Recovery
Bayou Interfaith Shared Community Organizing
Commission on Stewardship of the Environment, Louisiana
Interchurch Council
Equity and Inclusion Campaign
Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center
Gulf Restoration Network
Jesuit Social Research Institute (JSRI)
Langtree Duck Farm
Living Witness Community Social Service, Inc.
Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation
Louisiana Housing Alliance

Mary Queen of Viet Nam CDC
Mississippi Center for Justice
Mississippi Coast Interfaith Disaster Taskforce
Mississippi NAACP
Mississippi Poultry Workers for Equality and Respect
Moore Community House, Women in Construction
Mobile Baykeeper
Pax Christi New Orleans
Payne Memorial A.M.E. Church, New Orleans, LA
PICO-LIFT
South Bay Communities Alliance, AL
Terrebonne Readiness and Assistance Coalition
Turkey Creek Community Initiatives, Turkey Creek, MS
Zion Travelers Cooperative Center, Inc, Phoenix, LA

Political Parties Passing Resolutions Supporting:

Louisiana Republican Party
Missouri Democratic Party
California Democratic Party

Government Bodies Passing Resolutions:

California State Legislature
New Orleans City Council
Lafourche Parish Council
Terrebonne Parish Council