



# RISING SUN

## CENTER FOR OPPORTUNITY

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### Rising Sun Convenes Partnership to Promote Equitable Job Access in the Bay Area’s Post-Carbon Economy

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**OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA** – California is investing in a post-carbon economy. To ensure equitable access to high-road jobs in the building decarbonization industry, Rising Sun Center for Opportunity will convene a partnership of more than 20 cities, government agencies, unions, employers, and advisors beginning on June 1. Funded by the California Workforce Development Board’s High Road Training Partnership and California Climate Investments, the joint project aims to understand regional decarbonization labor market demand, workforce issues, and training needs; to establish and incentivize industry labor standards; and to develop clear, accessible training pathways to building decarbonization jobs – especially for entry-level and disadvantaged workers.

Most housing in the Bay Area relies on natural gas for cooking, water heating, and space heating. Reducing residential carbon dioxide emissions will involve both all-electric new construction and significant retrofitting of extant housing stock. The labor standards and policy levers that Rising Sun seeks to establish through this partnership will ensure that decarbonizing the Bay Area leads to quality, safe employment opportunities offering family-supporting wages, benefits, worker representation, and career advancement potential.

“Climate investments like building decarbonization present an incredible opportunity for job creation and economic equity, particularly in the context of a recovery from COVID-19,” says Rising Sun President and CEO Julia Hatton, “but only if we start with job quality and with justice.”

Committed partners include:

- Labor unions (represented by the Construction Trades Workforce Initiative)
- Industry employers (Eco Performance Builders, Electrify My Home, Gentec Services)
- Local governments (Berkeley, Oakland, San Francisco)
- Public agencies (Bay Area Regional Energy Network, East Bay Community Energy, MCE, StopWaste)
- Local workforce development boards (Alameda County and Oakland)
- High-road technical advisors (Inclusive Economics)
- Electrification technical advisors (Association for Energy Affordability, Building Electrification Institute)
- Environmental justice organizations (Emerald Cities Collaborative)
- Racial equity organizations (The Greenlining Institute)

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### **About Rising Sun Center for Opportunity**

Rising Sun is a premier nonprofit organization working at the intersection of economic equity and climate resilience in the California Bay Area and San Joaquin County. With offices in Oakland and Stockton, our workforce development programs specialize in preparing youth, women, and individuals in reentry for high-road careers and green pathways that offer family-sustaining wages. Since our founding in 1994, Rising Sun has served more than 2,900 youth and adults while helping over 50,600 households reduce their carbon footprint. Rising Sun’s policy agenda advocates for equitable access to quality green career pathways while addressing the effects of climate change on vulnerable communities.

[www.risingsunopp.org](http://www.risingsunopp.org)

*The High Road to Building Decarbonization in the San Francisco Bay Area* is part of the California Workforce Development Board’s High Road Training Partnership, which is funded through California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health, and the environment – particularly in disadvantaged communities.



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