



## STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH *All of God's Creation*

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, April 27, 2025

### *Earth Day 2025: Part II*

As noted in last week's bulletin, April 22 marks the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day, and Catholic Climate Covenant (CCC) in its Earth Day program, *Our Power, Our Planet*, is calling for tripling renewable energy generation globally by 2030.

**Two laws are already in place to address this call.** “The **Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)** and the **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)** were passed under the [previous] administration and include provisions to incentivize clean energy investment in hard-hit coal communities, as well as other communities disadvantaged by historical reliance on fossil fuel jobs. The laws provide an economic lifeline to people in such energy communities who have long been left behind, with the added benefits of healthier air, water, and jobs. In fact, the IRA represents the single largest investment ever made in our green-energy future. **But now ... those laws are at risk.**

[A brief recap]: The goal of the IRA is to ensure a clean, livable climate while simultaneously investing in our energy security by using tax credits to incentivize individuals and businesses to reduce emissions and choose clean energy options. The IIJA is designed to improve our transportation and infrastructure, including road development and energy transmission....

**States across [the country] have already received billions of dollars in investments stemming from these acts.** Texas alone received \$12 billion from 2023 to Q3 2024. This money is invested in local jobs, allowing communities to thrive economically without the health trade-offs associated with fossil fuels.... Without the IRA, nearly 1 million fewer jobs will be created by 2030.... And the Environmental Protection Agency has found that every \$1 invested in pollution reduction yields \$30 in economic benefits.” (Anita Lowe Taylor, MD, *MedPage Today*, 4/18/25)

**On March 6<sup>th</sup>, Angela Ferritto, president of the PA AFL-CIO, addressed students at St. Joe's Prep concerning the need to focus on creating a sustainable and innovative energy economy along with the jobs of the future.** “Collective action is an urgent necessity. And one thing about climate change is that it does not care about your zip code, or political affiliation – it is impacting everyone through the air we breathe and the water we drink.

**Union Energy is a movement toward a sustainable and innovative energy economy** that was created two years ago in response to opportunities presented by the Inflation Reduction Act and the American Rescue Plan. Union Energy's mission is to ensure that the transition to a clean energy economy creates high-quality, unionized jobs that provide fair wages, comprehensive benefits, and safe working conditions that stimulate the economy.... By partnering with environmental groups, students, policymakers, community organizations, and faith institutions we **aim to champion sustainable energy solutions that support workers' rights, promote social equity, and advance environmental stewardship.**”

**In tribute to Pope Francis** and his urgent message in *Laudato Si'* to develop policies to drastically reduce the emission of carbon dioxide and other highly polluting gases by developing sources of renewable energy (LS #26), let us as caretakers of God's creation respond in prayers and [actions](#)!

Comments on this column may be directed to the Social Justice Committee at [socialjustice@holycrossphl.org](mailto:socialjustice@holycrossphl.org).  
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