

ISSUE

Traditional extraction communities are currently some of the [poorest counties](#) in the nation. Realigning the energy production goals of underserved communities could both elevate communities and decrease the costs associated with energy consumption. Additionally, by incorporating traditional energy production entities as energy distribution managers, electrical grid operators, and safety oversight managers we can avoid the alienation of previously established job creators. Through meaningful [fines](#) and [incentives](#) imposed or rewarded to energy producers, we can decrease carbon emissions in a fiscally viable way. Furthermore, informing the public of malignant actions by energy producers increases the public drive to shift from non-renewable energy.

Policy Solutions

- Additional funding for development of economically impoverished areas shall be provided by a non-waivable fine of 1% of reported annual revenue per instance of uncontrolled hydrocarbon or toxic substance release by any business entity, or .5% of reported annual revenue per ton of uncontrolled hydrocarbon or toxic substance release in any local; whichever is greater. Assessment for fees shall be conducted at the federal level by an independent agency, and distribution shall occur per year to qualifying energy programs in the target counties. Any entity that incorporates greater than 15% of its business into the production of CO₂-producing, or toxic chemical-producing energy products is ineligible for tax breaks and or funding. The exclusion clause also applies to any entity owned, operated by, or a subsidiary of any legal or corporate structure that is a disqualifying entity.
- Any uncontrolled release of any toxic substance, [as defined by the EPA](#), shall be accompanied by a public release of information, conducted by the organization, on all ramifications, damages, health implications, and sustained changes to the area affected. This release shall be directly funded by violating entities and provided to any individuals or communities directly affected by the pollution. The burden of ensuring all affected individuals are appropriately informed falls solely on the violator.
- Through a [flat tax of 3% per ton on greenhouse gas-producing energy products](#), as measured by the revenue of any products produced or sold in the United States, funding shall be allocated to counties reporting poverty rates of more than 15% for the development of renewable energy production and storage for state and national distribution.
- Landowners who convert non-arable land to photovoltaic solar arrays powering properties not in holding by the landowner shall receive a 5% property tax credit for every dwelling served. This credit shall not exceed 100% of the property owner's tax. Any farm utilizing [Agrovoltaics](#) to power more than 80% of its energy requirement shall also receive the same credit.

Conclusion

Through the methodology described above, establishing a system of accountability for violators of ecological, energy, and international policy is key to powering the future of energy in the United States. Furthermore, providing direct financial incentives to develop and maintain distributed renewable energy systems can lift our most impoverished communities. While innovating our energy policy, and bolstering our critical national infrastructure, we create an environment with outstanding economic growth potential for both new and established energy providers.