



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **GREEN COLLAR JOBS ROADMAP LAUNCHED** **A step-by-step plan for an inclusive green economy for all New Yorkers**

*October 27, 2009, New York City* – The Green Collar Jobs Roundtable, a multi-stakeholder New York City-based campaign today released its Roadmap—a strategy to ensure that the green economy’s growth creates broadly shared prosperity for businesses, communities and workers in New York City. The Roadmap offers more than 30 recommendations on how a coordinated, city-wide agenda that advances sustainability initiatives and prepares New Yorkers for green collar jobs can be a cornerstone of strategies to navigate New York City out of today’s recession.

The Roundtable is a participatory effort of over 170 job-training organizations, community-based programs, businesses, and labor unions, convened by Urban Agenda, a public policy, research and advocacy organization. Over a year, data on green jobs and workforce development best practices were collected, with working groups looking at all aspects of the green economy including the current landscape, training, employers, job standards, and target populations. The findings point to the city’s existing lack of training, recruitment, business services, pre-employment, and job-readiness infrastructure to meet ambitious sustainability goals and further develop emerging high-growth green sectors.

“The Roadmap addresses this issue head-on,” said J.Mijin Cha, Director of Campaign Research at Urban Agenda, and chief coordinator of the report. “It spells out our collective vision, which is an inclusive green economy that employs thousands of New Yorkers in good, green jobs that help upgrade our infrastructure, improve the health of our communities, and reduce the country’s reliance on imported energy that degrades the environment.”

“Environmental sustainability is only half of this vision,” stressed Edward Ott, Chair of the NYC Apollo Alliance, “equally important is that green collar jobs are also good jobs that offer family-supporting wages, benefits, and opportunities for career advancement.” The NYC Apollo Alliance is a coalition of labor, environmentalists and environmental justice advocates, businesses, educators and community-based groups advocating for public policies that target job creation and environmental stewardship.

The Roadmap was jointly launched by the Center for American Progress, a national nonpartisan research and educational institute. “We have long believed that the clean energy economy has huge potential to create good jobs, build new businesses and revitalize urban centers,” says Kate Gordon, Vice President of Energy Policy at CAP. “The New York City Roadmap moves the green jobs conversation from rhetoric to reality, highlighting the specific jobs and economic opportunities the city will create with strong energy investments and solid worker training policies.”

The release of the Roadmap is particularly timely, given the momentum the city is experiencing around the green economy, in large part pushed by the Mayor's sustainability initiatives. "The Economic Development Corporation announced just last week that the Bloomberg Administration's Transformation to a Green Economy plan will double the number of green jobs in the city in 10 years," said Joanne Derwin, Urban Agenda's executive director.

"We are excited to see the administration embracing some of the recommendations in the Roadmap and we look forward to working with them to ensure that the jobs created are good jobs and are accessible to all New Yorkers. The administration's plan is an important first step and the Roadmap provides a path for ensuring long-term economic growth that is sustainable, prosperous and just."

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## **About the New York City Green Collar Jobs Roundtable Campaign**

The Green Collar Jobs Roundtable is a multi-stakeholder campaign to mobilize New York City to prepare New Yorkers for green collar jobs. Convened by Urban Agenda, the Roundtable brings together 170 partners from green employers, community-based organizations, labor unions, workforce development providers, and environmental and environmental justice groups, committed to creating good, green jobs in New York City — jobs that enhance or sustain the environment while offering family-supporting wages, benefits, and opportunities for career advancement.

Since its inception in June 2008, the Roundtable has expanded rapidly in scope and scale, directing the city towards forward-thinking workforce development for green collar jobs. The Roundtable has developed a **Vision Statement** of guiding principles for the campaign, and a **Green Collar Jobs Roadmap** — a comprehensive strategy to grow a sustainable, prosperous, and just green economy. The Roadmap includes specific recommendations to make the Roundtable's shared vision a reality. After the Roadmap's release, the Roundtable will advocate for elected officials to enact its recommendations to make New York City a global leader in good, green collar jobs.

The Roadmap will be launched jointly by Urban Agenda and the Center for American Progress, with support from the AFL-CIO Center for Green Jobs, on October 27, 2009 in New York City.

## **About Urban Agenda**

Urban Agenda is an action-oriented public policy, research, and advocacy organization dedicated to building a socially, economically, and environmentally just New York City. It advocates policies and programs grounded in strategic research and supported by strong coalitions of union, business, and community partners.

Urban Agenda spearheads the Green Collar Jobs Roundtable Campaign, drawing on its extensive experience leading city-wide campaigns and staffing effective coalitions. As convener of the **NYC Apollo Alliance**, Urban Agenda partners with business, labor, advocacy, workforce development, and environmental justice organizations.

[www.urbanagenda.org/roadmap](http://www.urbanagenda.org/roadmap)

## **About the Center for American Progress**

The Center for American Progress is a nonpartisan research and educational institute dedicated to promoting a strong, just and free America that ensures opportunity for all. We believe that Americans are bound together by a common commitment to these values and we aspire to ensure that our national policies reflect these values. We work to find progressive and pragmatic solutions to significant domestic and international problems and develop policy proposals that foster a government that is "of the people, by the people, and for the people."

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