

CCSF Topical Lunch – May 24, 2010

Organizer: Sean Sweeney, ILR

Title: "Green Jobs, Climate Policy, and Economic Development."

In recent years the 'green job' has become an emblem for a sustainable low-carbon future. In political discourse green jobs have been described as vital to efforts to reduce unemployment levels, generating economic recovery, launching a new industrial policy, *and* fighting global warming. Meanwhile, trade unions, environmental justice organizations, and others in civil society have made strategic decisions based on the prospect of green job creation and a green economic transition more generally.

This topical lunch aims to initiate an exchange of insights around green jobs from those in Cornell who are concerned with the economic development implications of climate protection and sustainability more generally. We will consider the empirical evidence to support the claims made regarding the potential of green employment to serve as a foundation stone for a new phase of social and economic development. The implications for the social sciences are already being felt, as more research and intellectual energy is directed towards green economic and social policies and practices.

The lunch also seeks to engage Cornell colleagues beyond the social sciences who are interested in discussing the social implications of various options to reduce emissions as they pertain to power generation, transportation, urban planning and building design, etc.