

Just Transition Taskforce

1. Issue

Climate scientists concur that a rapid transition away from coal-fired electricity is necessary to meet the Paris Agreement goal to limit temperature increases well below 2°C and pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C.

Underpinning the movement away from unabated coal are **communities and workers**. Considering the social aspect of the transition towards a low-carbon economy is crucial for gaining social approval for the changes taking place given the number of workers reliant on jobs in the coal sector worldwide. Public policies to reduce emissions will face social resistance and significant political risks for the governments implementing them if they are not accompanied by a just transition for workers whose jobs will be lost or transformed. For these reasons, the issue of fair transition is a vital issue for governments, social partners and civil society organisations.

A key area of focus identified in the Powering Past Coal Alliance's (PPCA) 2018-2020 Engagement Strategy is supporting countries as they embark on their transition away from unabated coal generation.

2. Purpose

This Just Transition Taskforce will:

- share best practices and solutions to the real-world challenges of phasing out coal; and
- be a potential source of expertise for members of the PPCA and/ or countries the PPCA have identified as those they are seeking to engage with on phase-out.

These solutions will, in turn, help prospective PPCA members advance their coal phase-out ambitions.

3. Guiding Questions

Each Taskforce will be guided by a distinct series of key questions provided by the PPCA Members. The type of questions for this Taskforce are:

- *What are the greatest challenges that workers and communities face when transitioning away from coal?*
- *What are the lessons from current Just Transition initiatives in terms of the efficiency, effectiveness and equity of efforts to phase-out coal?*
- *How can social dialogue between trade unions, businesses, governments, investors, community organisations and academics contribute to the speedy shift from coal to clean energy?*
- *How can workers and communities be empowered to find innovative solutions to building a sustainable local economy through key institutions (such as trade unions)?*

4. Objective

PPCA Taskforces will each contribute to fulfil the objective of the PPCA to “work together to share real-world examples and best practices to support the phase-out of unabated coal...and be a repository of potential expertise for countries and communities seeking to embark on the transition...”.

5. Main Deliverable

The **Just Transition Taskforce** will produce a report that will include:

- Case studies of businesses, unions, communities, subnational governments, and national governments that have taken actions to support a Just Transition away from coal; and
- Recommendations on how actors in the transition can take leadership in making the shift from coal to cleaner energy while ensuring:
 - communities are sustainable; and
 - workers and future workers have good, quality jobs.

This report will form a chapter of a broader PPCA “Best Practices Guide” on coal phase-out that will support the ongoing implementation of energy transition efforts and initiatives.

The Just Transition Taskforce will also provide a source of specific expertise that can be drawn on by PPCA members to advice on their own transition or where the PPCA is seeking to engage with target countries.

6. Duration

The Just Transition Taskforce was launched 1 July 2019, and its work will continue throughout 2019-2020 and will conclude by December 31, 2020 with the publication of its report.

7. Activities and Proposed Timeline

In addition to the development of the report outlined above, the Taskforce will support its objective by undertaking a series of activities including:

- Offering teach-in sessions/sharing their experience around phasing out coal from their expertise;
- Participating in external engagements in PPCA target countries;
- Offering media opportunities to raise awareness of the PPCA;
- Providing a forum to discuss technical aspects of the transition;
- Promoting the PPCA initiative to a wider audience;
- Engaging with country level dialogues on coal phase-out; and,
- Contributing to key international events.

Key milestones could include:

- **July 2019:** Launch of the PPCA Just Transition Taskforce

- **July 2019:** First round-table discussion with partners to collaborate on coal phase-out
- **2019-2020:** Regular convening of the members via web-seminars or in-person meetings
- **2019-2020:** Status reports on activities
- **October 2020:** Publication of the Just Transition Taskforce Report/Recommendations
- **December 2020:** Presentation of the findings at COP26

8. Members

Chair: Marshall Islands and Welsh Government

Partners¹:

The work of the Taskforce will be guided by the Chair and supported by the PPCA Secretariat. Members of the Taskforce will convene regularly, as they see fit.

In addition to subject matter experts, the Taskforce is also open to all members of the PPCA. Interested participants may submit their request to join to the Chair of the Just Transition Taskforce.

9. Accountability

Participation in the Taskforce is voluntary. Partners are expected to contribute to and participate in the work of the Taskforce as they see fit. The Taskforce is expected to operate in a respectful and non-discriminatory manner and abusive or inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated.

Taskforce partners agree not to use their participation in the Taskforce as an opportunity to promote commercial or business interests, nor seek to directly profit from their engagement therein.

10. Background Documents

- https://poweringpastcoal.org/about/Powering_Past_Coal_Alliance_Declaration
- <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Just%20transition.pdf>
- https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/green-jobs/publications/WCMS_614309/lang--en/index.htm
- <https://cop24.gov.pl/presidency/initiatives/just-transition-declaration/>

¹ Partners of the PPCA Just Transition Taskforce may not necessarily fulfil the criteria to be a Member of the PPCA. Partners may be people, organisations or Unions that can provide expertise and support but not are themselves, necessarily, consumers or generators of power.