

**Submitted by Jeffrey Richardson
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Imani Energy is a solar power project management, installation and energy services company. Imani prioritizes working in Empowerment and Enterprise Zone communities to develop and train a local workforce for sales and solar system installation projects. We promote environmental sustainability through solar system installation and energy efficiency initiatives.

The Clean Power Plan is an opportunity for Delaware to take a long range view of its future and to aggressively pursue a sustainable clean energy economy. The state's centuries-old dependence on fossil fuel and chemical industries has created major health and environmental challenges for its citizens.

With an effectively conceived Clean Power Plan, real progress can be made toward the expansion of energy efficiency and renewable energy-related jobs and diversification of the economic base to achieve greater stability and a healthier environment.

Our solar company was formed out of a commitment to the deployment of solar power and job creation for low-income and people of color communities. Therefore we see it as critical that the Clean Power Plan provide clearly defined goals/targets that ensure the equitable distribution of resources to and for the inclusion of low-income and people of color communities throughout the state.

Including the language "people of color" and not just low-income participation in resource distribution goals will limit a growing tendency to target resources to low-income communities in ways that by-pass people of color, particularly African-Americans, the largest non-white group in the state. With a balanced and principled commitment to equity, the Clean Power Plan can actually help to heal not just the physical environment, but also some of the social and racial tensions in the area.

Industry should be strongly encouraged to include low-income and people of color in the delivery of energy efficiency and renewable energy services. This could be accomplished through linkages with training entities to prepare workers and commitments to employ participants that go through the programs.

The Clean Energy Plan should be linked to a "Green Economy" initiative that provides incentives to companies that employ substantive and documented sustainability practices. This could support existing and start-up businesses.

A weighted assessment tool for resource distribution, along the lines of the "B Corporation" movement could be utilized to, again, encourage sustainable business growth and better performance from traditional companies.

In general, Imani Energy supports the principles listed below that have been endorsed by many of the environmental and clean economy groups in Delaware.

- **Transparency.**
- **Meaningful Engagement**
- **Consumer Value**
- **Equity**
- **Public Health**
- **Efficiency and Clean Energy**
- **Jobs and Economic Justice**
- **Robust Analysis**

The critical component of the Clean Energy Plan is meaningful engagement and transparency. Extensive and documented participation in the form of well publicized meetings throughout the state is essential. Meetings should be held at differing times to accommodate working people as well as those with more flexible schedules.

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