

The transition to clean energy must put communities at the center.

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Hi Alaa,

This week, 18 years ago, Hurricane Katrina made landfall in New Orleans. It's a date I'll never forget because I grew up there, and on that day, I was supposed to start my first semester of college. The storm taught me a powerful lesson about what happens to communities after climate disasters.

When disaster hits, it's marginalized groups who suffer most. In New Orleans, Black people accounted for [73% of the residents](#) displaced by the levee failures and floods. And those who did return to the city stared failure in the face again when it came to public services: They were made to live in [formaldehyde-filled FEMA trailers](#). The city tore down its [public housing projects](#). Charter schools replaced public schools, and now New Orleans is the first American city [without traditional public schools](#).

I think of this now as Maui picks up the pieces after being ravaged by wildfires, cities across the country experience life-threatening heatwaves, and California gets hit by its first [tropical storm in 84 years](#).

The Biden administration has made [historic investments in our infrastructure](#) and [green technology](#) that will help to prevent the kind of disasters New Orleans experienced and that many other places are currently experiencing. But we need to make sure that these investments result in good jobs that can sustain families and lift people out of poverty—or else, longstanding inequities will continue to be laid bare when the next “unprecedented” disaster happens.

That’s what JMA aims to do. We work with coalitions to win [community benefits agreements](#) (CBAs) with green technology manufacturers so that the community has a seat at the table when global companies set up shop in their towns. These CBAs have the power to transform communities—our CBA with New Flyer is [already changing lives](#) in Alabama.

It’s possible to build much-needed green technology and resilient, healthy communities at the same time. There may be many more Katrinas to come as the climate crisis continues to get worse. But we have the tools to promote a just transition to clean energy that puts communities at the center.

In solidarity,



Lauren LaBorde

Senior Communications Specialist

What We're Reading and Watching

- JMA and other climate justice organizations are calling on Big 3 Auto CEOs to meet the United Auto Workers’ (UAW) union contract demands to ensure that the clean energy transition is a just transition too. UAW’s contract with General Motors, Stellantis and Ford Motor Company is expiring in one month, and members [voted overwhelmingly](#) to authorize a strike if the automakers don’t negotiate a fair deal. **Read the open letter from the coalition [here](#).**
 - The new website for our Local Opportunities Coalition is live! The campaign aims to change the outdated regulations that are keeping cities and states from using federal funds to create good jobs close to home. **Check out the website and learn more about the campaign [here](#).**
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JMA is fighting to advance a powerful agenda for equitable job creation and climate justice that puts workers and their communities at the center. We're hiring for several open positions! [Visit our website to learn more and apply.](#)

Join us in the fight for good jobs and healthy communities.

Donate Today

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