



# The CorpsNetwork

Strengthening America through  
service and conservation



## **The Growing Climate Workforce:** *Civilian Climate Corps*

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**EESI, September 27, 2021**

# What is a Corps?

- **Service and workforce development programs**  
*(some Corps also offer GED, high school diploma or college preparatory programs)*
- Operated by **nonprofits** or units of **state or local government**
- Engage in **public-private partnerships** on **service projects** focused on stewardship, community improvement, outdoor recreation access.
- Based on model of **Civilian Conservation Corps**





# The Corps Network

- National Association of Service and Conservation Corps
- Founded in 1985
- Based in Washington, DC
- Provide technical assistance, project and grant opportunities, best practices, advocacy
- **139** member organizations across the U.S.
  - Annually engage ~20,000-25,000+ diverse young adults (**typically ages 16 – 30**)
  - Corpsmembers represent range of backgrounds and life experiences



# Having an Impact Through Public-Private Partnerships

## Corps Project Outcomes: 2019 - 2020 Snapshot

**1.73 million**

Acres of habitat restored

**25,300**

Miles of trails constructed/improved

**1.3 million +**

Trees planted

**20,000 +**

Industry-recognized certifications earned

**7,300 +**

Miles of waterway restored

**7,300 +**

Community spaces improved or constructed

**32,000**

Acres of fire fuels treated

**500+**

Wildfires and other disasters responded to





## Examples of Certifications/Trainings

- Public Land Corps Authority
- OSHA 10-hr/30-hr
- Chainsaw/Sawyer Certification
- Red Card (wildland firefighting)
- HAZWOPER
- HAZMAT
- Weatherization Tech
- BPI Certified Building Analyst
- Air Sealing Certification
- Asbestos/Lead Removal
- Commercial Driver's License
- Energy Auditing Certification
- Pesticide Application
- First Aid/Wilderness First Aid
- Urban Forestry
- Home Builder's Institute
- Solar Panel Installation
- Wilderness First Responder
- CERT (Emergency Response)
- Home Energy Rater
- Insulation Tech
- Chipper
- Forklift Certification

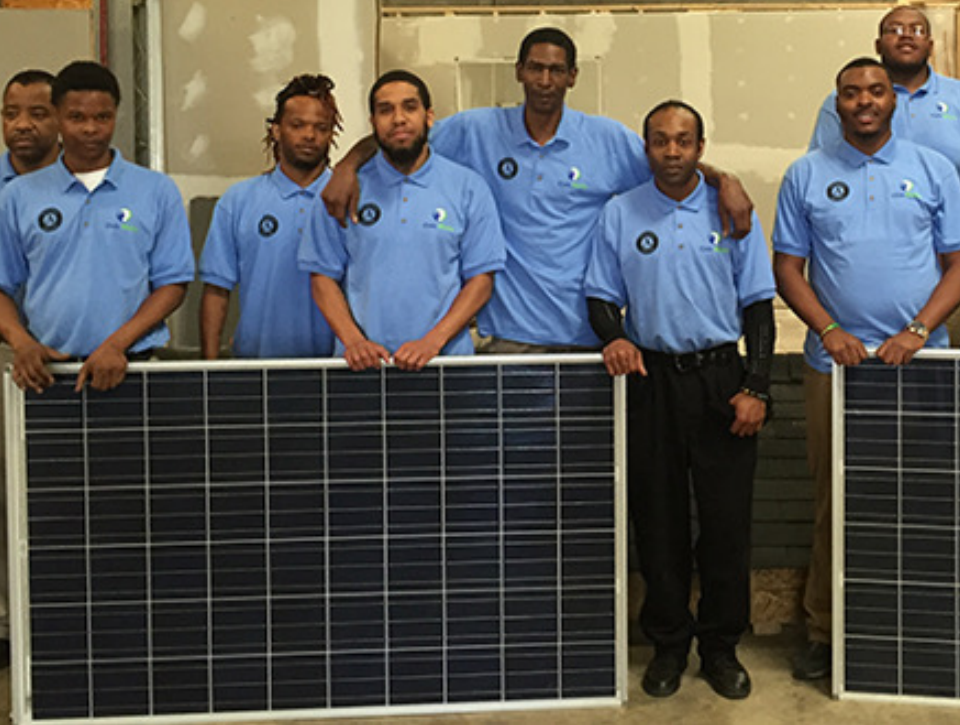




## Wildland Fire / Natural Disasters

- **Mitigation and Response**  
2019 - 2020
  - >860 Red Cards
  - >3,300 chainsaw certifications
  - 32,000 acres of fire fuels
  - Responded to >340 fires
- Some programs focused on military veterans; engaging more women in wildfire and forestry
- **Examples:**
  - California Conservation Corps
  - Conservation Legacy





## Energy Efficiency

- Several Corps conduct energy audits; install energy and water-saving retrofits in qualifying low-income homes
- Provide education to residents
- Install solar panels
- **2019 - 2020 outcomes snapshot:**
  - 60,700 low-income homes weatherized
- **Examples:**
  - Civic Works (Baltimore)
  - Sustainability Institute (Charleston)



# Civilian Climate Corps

- Dozen bills introduced
- Executive order, January 2021
- Surveys indicate half of all voters under the age of 45 would consider joining CCC if a position was available
- Support from:
  - [80+ U.S. House and Senate Members](#),
  - nearly [70 US House Members](#),
  - and over [120 climate, environment, and national service organizations](#)

Sec. 215. Civilian Climate Corps. In furtherance of the policy set forth in section 214 of this order, the Secretary of the Interior, in collaboration with the Secretary of Agriculture and the heads of other relevant agencies, shall submit a strategy to the Task Force within 90 days of the date of this order for creating a Civilian Climate Corps Initiative, within existing appropriations, to mobilize the next generation of conservation and resilience workers and maximize the creation of accessible training opportunities and good jobs. The initiative shall aim to conserve and restore public lands and waters, bolster community resilience, increase reforestation, increase carbon sequestration in the agricultural sector, protect biodiversity, improve access to recreation, and address the changing climate.

## Vision / Principles

- **Robust CCC:** \$30 billion over 10 years
- **Start from strength**, not from scratch
- Funding for capacity building
- Funding for:
  - Project partners, Department of Labor, AmeriCorps
- **Focus on equity:** prioritize projects and enrollment in environmental justice communities
- **Career pathways**, adequately support for Corpsmembers
- **\$15 minimum wage**
- Facilitate alignment and partnerships with strategic partners



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