

Building High Quality Jobs in the IE: IEGO's Sustainable Logistics Cluster Strategy

The Problem

The future of the Inland Empire is inextricably connected to the future of its logistics sector. The IE holds significant infrastructure and employment assets in the Southern California logistics corridor, and logistics has been one of the region's foundational industry sectors driving economic growth. However, the logistics sector has also given rise to many low-paying jobs that are vulnerable to automation and negative environmental and quality of life impacts.

The Opportunity

The IE logistics sector currently generates a mix of job quality, with an above-average concentration of good and promising jobs for workers with less than a four-year degree. In order for all residents to benefit from the logistics sector, there is a need to take a triple bottom line approach to sector development, focused on 1) quality jobs, 2) environmental sustainability, and 3) economic growth.



The Proposed Solution: A coordinated ecosystem approach to developing a sustainable logistics cluster

A sustainable logistics cluster strategy in the Inland Empire aims to leverage existing logistics assets to move the sector up the value chain to create new and better quality opportunities for residents in the region. The strategy is grounded in a coordinated ecosystem approach, rather than an accumulation of siloed projects. The Inland Economic Growth and Opportunity (IEGO) effort aims to catalyze investment, coordinate activities, and build partnerships in the following areas:

- *Anchor of Activities:* The creation of an IE Sustainable Logistics Center of Excellence can serve as the connective tissue for all logistics activities in the region and drive innovation.
- *Industry Insight:* A robust process that gathers critical market-driven insight from diverse stakeholders in the region is needed to inform the cluster strategy and ultimately spur economic growth and increase job quality in the region.
- *Research, Innovation, and Commercialization:* A coordinated and well-executed research agenda will support existing industry needs and create new products and services to export out of the region, including environmentally sustainable technologies. Additionally, by moving up the global value chain, the logistics industry in the IE can transform its contribution to the regional economy by producing higher paying and safer jobs that are less susceptible to automation.
- *Training Collaborative:* Investing in regional K-12, community college, and four-year career pathways, the LAUNCH apprenticeship network, and High Road Training Partnerships can provide the infrastructure to transition workers to high-quality jobs in this sector.
- *Infrastructure for Civic Leadership:* To develop, evaluate, and achieve equity and sustainability goals, resources must be invested to integrate environmental justice, worker, labor, and other community-based groups into traditional economic development spaces and regional initiatives like the Center of Excellence.
- *Policy:* Support from local and state government is needed to establish clear and effective policies on land use, infrastructure, and permitting to address private and public needs and expectations.