

***NEW SOLUTIONS* AND THE BLUE GREEN ALLIANCE—  
GOOD JOBS, GREEN JOBS CONFERENCE**

*New Solutions* was established by the late Tony Mazzocchi, renowned leader of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers Union and a pioneer in the effort to join the labor and environmental movements, and by Charles Levenstein of the University of Massachusetts Lowell, a leading work environment policy researcher. The journal was formed to meet the task of “building bridges between the environmental and labor movements.” *New Solutions* has not only identified conflicts between these movements, but has sought to promote a dialogue about the contradictions that shape the context of our efforts to establish ecologically sound, just, and healthy and safe modes of production and consumption. We seek new solutions that are historically and scientifically grounded and can be realistically pursued to establish a sustainable future.

We are delighted to present, in collaboration with the Blue Green Alliance, this special issue of selected speeches and presentations from the second Good Jobs, Green Jobs National Conference held in Washington, D.C., February 4-6, 2009—and from related activities before and after the event. The conference brought together nearly 3,000 labor, environmental, and business advocates to forge an agenda for the new and green economy. Since most of the pieces selected for this issue of *New Solutions* were presented at the conference, they belong to our Movement Solutions, Comment and Controversy, Documents, and Voices sections. For that reason, we have not conducted peer review prior to their publication and instead have relied upon the pre-conference selection and review process. We also have decided to use the author byline to identify author photos at the beginning of a piece. We invite everyone who is reading *New Solutions* for the first time with this issue to become involved in the journal as subscribers, readers, and authors.

The leaders and activists contributing to this issue provide a set of ideas and concepts for a “green recovery,” “green new deal,” and “green economy”—terms

chosen to frame a broad program to address the national and international crises resulting from destructive modes of production and consumption and failures to commit to socially just distributions of wealth and resources. We hope that the concepts presented here open a new and dynamic period in the dialogue about environmental and occupational health policy that *New Solutions* has long promoted.

Will green jobs be for some or for all workers? Will it be a national or an international effort? Will we use a “New Green Deal” to fix the global economy’s current crisis and can we use this moment to shift our modes of production and consumption to avert the worst consequences of global warming and end human poverty? Green has so many definitions that often it lacks meaning. But one thing is clear: green is not where we are now and making the transition to that green future is going to require deep commitment to justice, speaking truth to power, and collaboration across movements.

We hope that *New Solutions* can continue to be a forum to critically assess our success in defining and making those commitments.

*Editors: Craig Slatin, Beth Rosenberg,  
and Eduardo Siqueira*