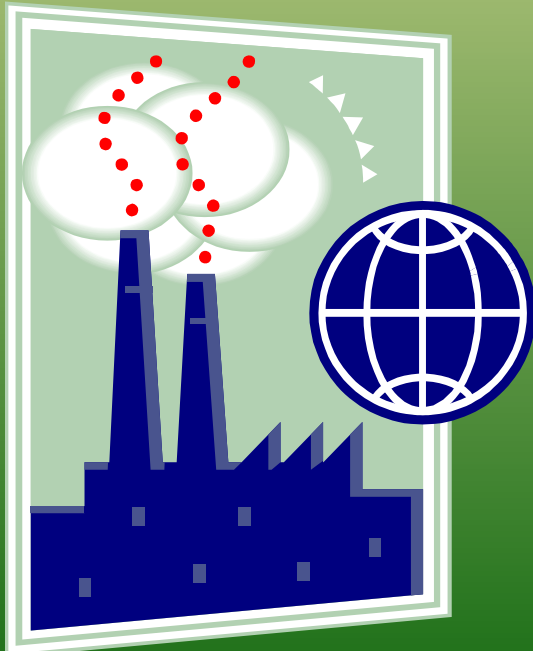




LCLAA

LABOR COUNCIL FOR LATIN AMERICAN ADVANCEMENT



THE NEW ECONOMY: SAVING ENERGY GROWING JOBS

Dr. Gabriela D. Lemus

What is a “Green” Economy?

- A “Green” economy is one that takes into account the scope of environmental need, combines it with the scope of economic potential and is implemented with some needed government action.



An Environmentally Sustainable Economy

- **How Can it Work?**
 - **A healthier environment comes from innovative collaborative relationships among government, labor, private industry and the environmental movement.**
 - **Sound Environmental Protection policy promotes economic growth through job creation via innovation and competition.**

Creating Opportunities

- **Energy Efficiency**

- Energy use is at the heart of our most critical environmental, geopolitical and economic problems
- Reducing energy use can provide significant environmental, economic and security benefits

- **Innovation**

- Process engineering can result in energy efficiency, improved worker health, and productivity
- Innovation is triggered by government policies that lead to new consumer features that improve efficiency

Why “Green” Now?

The Economic Imperative

- **Between 2000 and 2003 alone, the United States lost 16 percent of its manufacturing jobs, with a further 4 percent decline between then and now.**
- **The U.S. manufacturing base is slipping – down to 12 percent of the nation’s GDP in 2005.**
- **More than 40,000 manufacturing plants have shut down in the United States since 2000.**
- **Renewable energy creates more jobs than other sources of energy: four times as many jobs per megawatt of installed capacity as natural gas and 40% more jobs per dollar invested than coal.**

Why Green Now?

The National Security Imperative

- **The United States imports well over half of all its oil, most from unstable and undemocratic nations.**
- **Investing in alternative energy sources reduces oil consumption and increases energy independence.**
- **For example, a \$30 billion investment per year for 10 years would produce \$284 billion in net energy cost savings while reducing transportation related petroleum consumption between 1.25 million barrels per day and 2.55 million barrels per day or the equivalent of cutting Persian Gulf imports between 54% to 110%.**

Why Green Now?

The Environmental Imperative

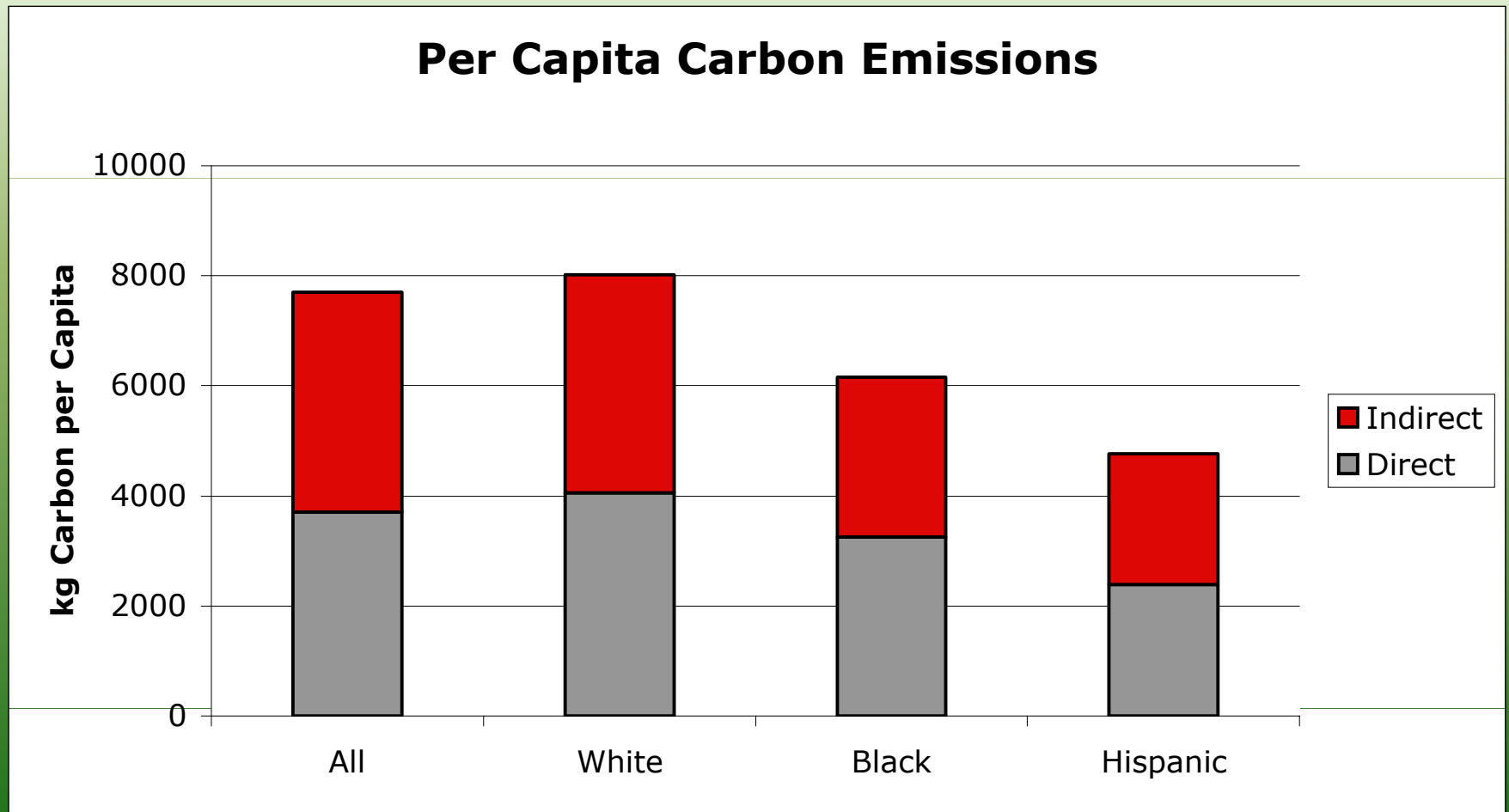
- There is ample and mounting evidence of a global environmental crises.
- Hispanics make up 15 percent of the U.S. population, yet in 2002 more than seven out of ten Hispanics (71 percent) lived in counties that violated federal air pollution standards for one or more pollutants.
- Thirty-nine percent of the Latino population lives within 30 miles of a power plant.
- Warming of the planet together with more drought conditions in some regions and flooding in others could induce crop failures, famines, flooding and other environmental, economic and social problems like increased immigration.

Why Green Now?

The Social Imperative

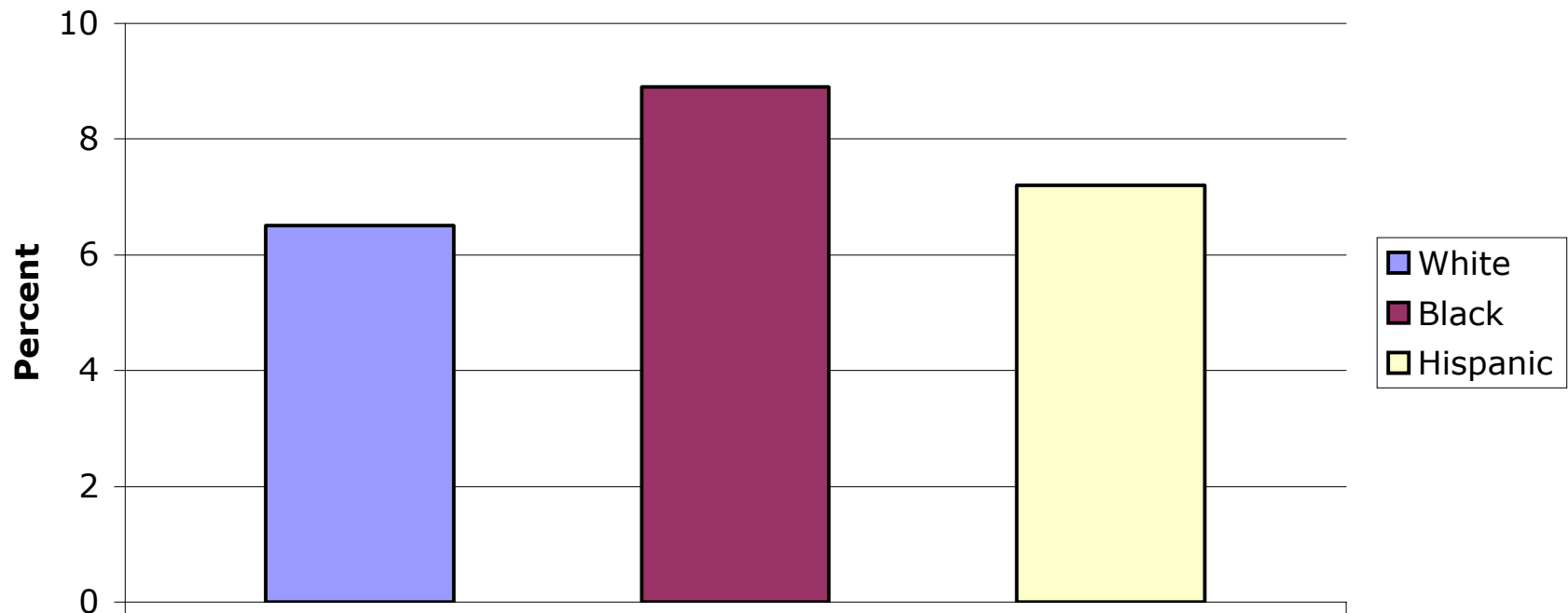
- **The US faces \$1.6 trillion in unmet infrastructure needs in cities and rural communities while state economies suffer the worst state fiscal crisis in recent history.**
- **New transit system starts, maintenance of the nation's passenger train system, development of regional high speed rail networks, and improvements in the nation's roads and highways will guarantee that spending is made locally, directly stimulating the domestic economy, supporting small business and regional labor markets.**

How do Latinos Rate?



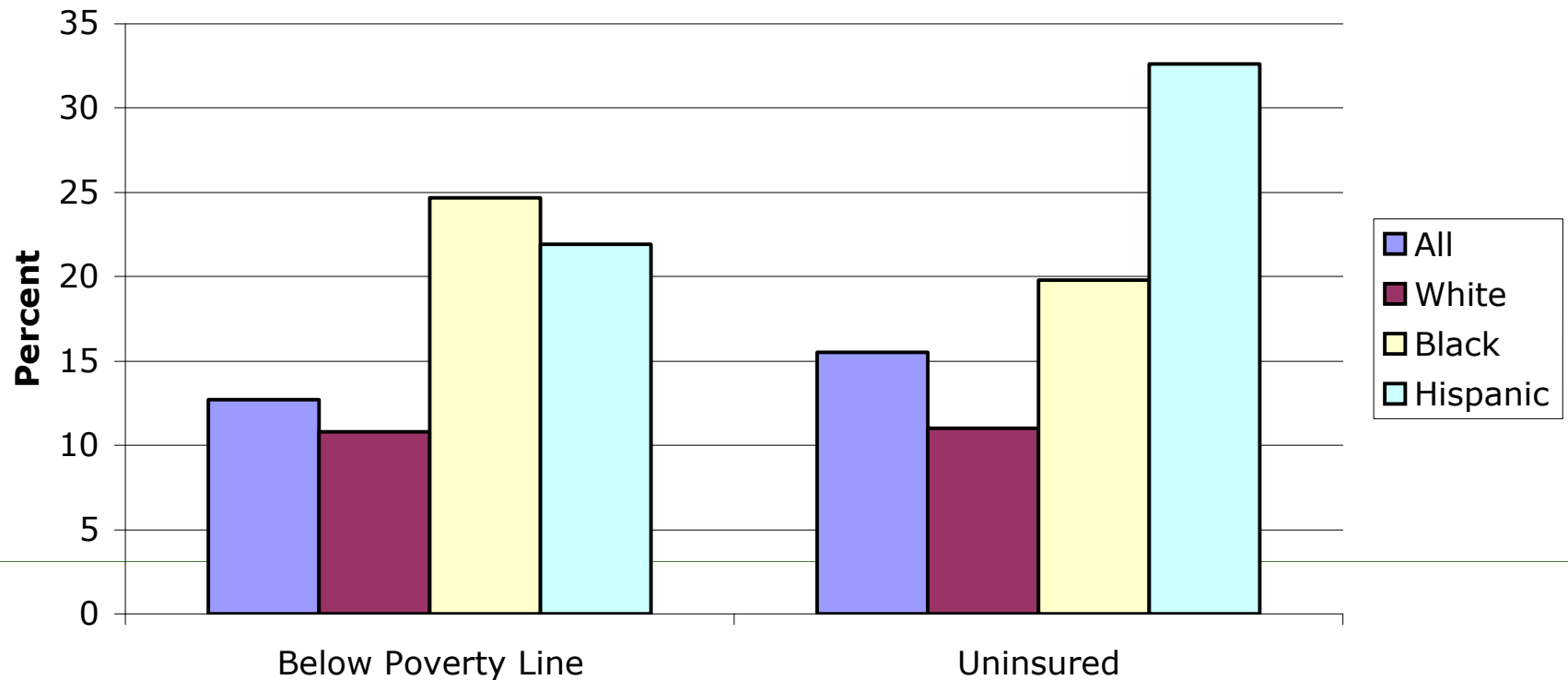
Vulnerable to Energy Prices

**Energy Expenditures as a Share of Total
by Race**



Latinos: Working Poor and Uninsured

Share of Population Poor and Uninsured



Latinos and Health

- **Air pollution from power plant smokestacks, cars and trucks, construction equipment, and other sources includes fine particle “soot” pollution, ozone smog and dangerous air toxics such as mercury.**
- **More than 13.5 million, or 35 percent of Hispanics, live in areas that violate the federal air pollution standard for particulate matter, or soot, which causes premature death and other serious health effects such as breathing problems, stunted lung growth, and babies that are born with low birth weight, among others.**

Latinos and Health

- **More than 19 million, or 50% of Hispanics, live in areas that violate the federal air pollution standard for ozone, one of the major triggers for asthma attacks.**
- **High poverty rates restrict housing options for Latino families, and lack of health insurance limits access to quality health care .**



Choices to be Made

- **Rebuilding Infrastructure, Renewing Manufacturing, Fixing Trade Policy and Addressing Climate Change are Interdependent Issues**
 - **How do we address it?**
 - **Create Climate Policy that invests in Clean Energy and creates “Green” Jobs by preventing failure in the market place.**
 - **Strategic Investments in New Technologies and Alternative Energy = Growing Industry and Creating Jobs.**
 - **Addressing American Manufacturing also means Addressing Globalization through Trade Agreements that create strong Middle Classes in developing countries to Buy our “Green” Products, Diminish Toxic Waste, and lower Carbon Emissions.**

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