

State Energy Sector Partnership (SESP) and Training Grants

Total available from the U.S. Department of Labor: \$190,000,000

Total Wyoming: \$4,495,704

- Eight projects, based in Casper, Cheyenne, Riverton, Sheridan and Torrington, will train workers for the renewable energy, energy efficient construction, energy efficiency assessment, and construction recycling industries.
- More than 2,000 Wyoming residents will benefit from the grant.
- The Wyoming Workforce Development Council applied for the grant on Oct. 16, 2009, and received notice of its successful application on Jan. 20, 2010.
- Grant funding period is three years.

Purpose and Principles: The Recovery Act provided \$750 million in competitive grants for worker training and placement in high-growth and emerging industries. Of that amount, \$500 million was designated for projects that prepare workers for careers in the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors. The Workforce Investment Act defines these sectors to include: the energy-efficient building, construction and retrofit industries; the renewable electric power industry; the energy efficient and advanced drive train vehicle industry; the biofuels industry; the deconstruction and materials use industries; the energy efficiency assessment industry serving residential, commercial, or industrial sectors; and manufacturers that produce sustainable products using environmentally sustainable processes and materials. Additionally, the Department is interested in applicants who propose strategies that train for green occupations within the following industries: transportation; green construction; environmental protection; sustainable agriculture, including healthy food production; forestry; and recycling and waste reduction.

On June 24, 2009, the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration announced that the aforementioned \$500 million would be disbursed through five grant opportunities, including this \$190 million initiative. Awards were made on Jan. 20, 2010, to 34 states in increments of \$2 million to \$6 million to workforce development projects that will focus on connecting target populations, including auto and auto-related industry workers affected by significant automotive-related restructurings, to career pathways in green industries. Grant funds awarded will be used to provide training, job placement and related activities that reflect a comprehensive statewide energy "sector strategy" including the Governor's overall workforce vision, state energy policies, and training activities that lead to employment in targeted industry sectors. A "sector strategy" is defined as a workforce development approach that targets the needs of a specific industry sector through an integrated system of education, training and supportive services that promotes skill attainment and career pathway development for workers. Sector strategies are designed and implemented by a range of institutions and groups working collaboratively, including community and faith-based organizations, business and industry groups, education institutions such as community and technical colleges, the public workforce system, labor-management partnerships, and others.

Grant Expenditure Period: The period of grant performance will be up to 36 months from the date of execution of the grant document.

Eligible Applicants: State Workforce Investment Boards in partnership with their State Workforce Agency, local Workforce Investment Boards or regional consortia of Boards and One Stop Career Center delivery systems. In Wyoming, the Wyoming Workforce Development Council serves as the State Workforce Investment Board, and the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services serves as both the State Workforce Agency and the One Stop Career Center delivery system.

Eligible costs: Training costs that are directly related to the provision of training for participants may include the following: faculty/instructors, including salaries and fringe benefits; in-house training staff; support staff such as lab or teaching assistants; classroom space, including laboratories, mock-ups or other facilities used for training purposes; classroom-supported internship programs; and books, materials and supplies used in the training course, including specialized equipment. Applicants may not charge any strategic planning activities to the grant.

Participants eligible to receive training: Projects must give priority for training and other services provided through the grant to the following target populations: A) Workers impacted by national energy and environmental policy; B) Individuals in need of updated training related to the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries; C) Veterans, or past and present members of reserve components of the Armed Forces; D) Unemployed individuals; E) Individuals, including at-risk youth, seeking employment pathways out of poverty and into economic self-sufficiency; and F) Individuals with a criminal record. Other individuals, such as untapped labor pools and entry-level and incumbent workers that do not fit into the categories above, may also be served through these projects.

Online Information: The U.S. Department of Labor's news release announcing successful grantees can be found at: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20100078.htm>. The original Solicitation for Grant Application (SGA) can be found at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-14922.pdf>.

Summary of Wyoming's grant application

State Energy Sector Partnership

As a requirement of the grant, a Wyoming State Energy Sector Partnership was formed with a two-fold mission: To shape and inform public policy that supports the state's key energy sectors, and to enhance the workforce needs of those sectors. Partnership members represent the Governor's Office, the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes, State Cabinet directors whose agencies are receiving ARRA funds, labor organizations, the workforce development system, the education and training community, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector. Additionally, seven of the 23 members also serve on the Wyoming Workforce Development Council, which is the State Workforce Investment Board – thereby, assuring coordination and effective communication between the groups.

Local Worker Training Projects to be Funded

The State Energy Sector Partnership endorsed eight local training projects that meet the goals of the Partnership, its state energy sector plan and this grant opportunity. The vast majority of funding supports the eight local projects, with a small amount (3.2 percent) set aside for state administration.

Targeted populations are unemployed; disadvantaged populations such as tribal members, inmates and veterans; individuals in need of updated training; workers impacted by national policy; individuals in poverty looking to move into self-sufficient occupations; at-risk youth; and dislocated workers.

Highlights of the grant include use of mobile labs to provide training to individuals in remote or rural areas, outreach to disadvantaged populations, and a focus on attainment of degrees or industry-recognized certificates.

Targeted Occupations

Renewable electric power industry: Electricians – upgraded skills for work on industrial wind turbines; installers of residential wind and solar energy components; wind turbine safety.

Energy efficiency assessment industry: Energy auditor training; skills upgrade for contractors and technicians to implement recommendations of energy audits; skills upgrade for retailers, business people and municipal employees regarding knowledge of energy efficient equipment and installation techniques.

Deconstruction and materials use industry: Recycling of concrete materials and construction materials.

Energy-efficient building, construction and retrofit industries: Skill upgrade for contractors, technicians and construction workers in energy efficient construction techniques; Training for installation of geothermal exchange systems; energy-efficient HVAC training.

Local Project Teams and Training Activities

CASPER COLLEGE

Energy Efficiency Awareness and Training

Training Activities: Energy Auditing, Contractor and Technician Training, Micro Wind Turbine Installation, and Geothermal Heating Installation.

- Team Members:
 - Dr. Laura Driscoll, Dean, Continuing Education and Community Partnerships, Casper College (lead)
 - Guy Hadley, Casper One-Stop Workforce Center Supervisor, Wyoming Department of Workforce Services
 - Robert Barnes, Executive Director, Casper Area Economic Development Alliance Inc.

- Jennifer Scott, Community Services Coordinator, Casper Area Economic Development Alliance, Inc.
- Ann Dalton, Workforce Training Specialist, Casper College
- Kenyne Schlager, Workforce Training Specialist, Casper College
- Laura Burnett, Workforce Training Specialist, Casper College

CENTRAL WYOMING COLLEGE

Environment, Health and Safety/Facilities Maintenance Program

Training Activities: Environmental Compliance, Health and Safety Technicians and Facilities Maintenance with a focus on energy efficiency and conservation of resources.

- Team members:
 - Lynne McAuliffe, Assistant Dean of Work Force and Community Services, Central Wyoming College (lead)
 - Burl Geis, Riverton/Lander One-Stop Workforce Center Supervisor, Wyoming Department of Workforce Services
 - Ted Knowles, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Wyoming Department of Workforce Services
 - Randy Teeuwen, Community Relations Advisor, EnCana Corp.
 - Bill Skelton, Operations Manager, Devon Energy Corp.
 - Rick Mickelson, Human Safety and Environmental Resources Lead, Conoco-Phillips
 - Scott Kane, owner, Creative Energies
 - Jackie Meeker, Board of Cooperative Higher Education Services Coordinator, Central Wyoming College

EASTERN WYOMING COLLEGE

Weatherization and Energy Efficiency Training

Training Activities: Training for installation of wind and solar energy equipment, training of weatherization techniques, and expertise-building of individuals in retail, business and municipal organizations on energy efficient buildings and residential and commercial renewable energy equipment. A mobile lab unit will take training to remote areas.

- Team Members:
 - John Ely, Construction Technology Instructor, Eastern Wyoming College (co-lead)
 - Dru Rafferty, Director, Workforce Development, Eastern Wyoming College (co-lead)
 - Dee Ludwig, Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness, Eastern Wyoming College (co-lead)
 - Gilbert Servantez, Supervisor, Torrington One-Stop Workforce Center, Wyoming Department of Workforce Services
 - Betty Abbott, Correctional Education Programs Manager, Wyoming Department of Corrections
 - Lisa Johnson, Director, Goshen County Economic Development Corp.
 - Joseph A. Coyne, Executive Director, Converse Area New Development Corp.
 - G.N. George, President, Bloedorn Lumber Co.
 - Paul Reed, CEO, Paul Reed Construction
 - Dan Grafton, Safety Manager, Cameco Resources
 - Ray Fleming Dinneen, Executive Director, CLIMB Wyoming
 - Connie J. Woehl, Co-chair, Jubilee House
 - Steve Byers, Principal, EnergyLogic Inc.
 - Rick Lehal, Construction Manager, Scottsbluff Housing Authority

FREMONT COUNTY BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATION SERVICES (BOCES) Green Construction Technology Program

Training Activities: 1) Green Technology Awareness, which includes basic construction skills that will assure the presence of environmental efficiency in building and sustainable technology; 2) Deconstruction, which covers recycling, composting and salvaging materials, maintaining a clean construction site and preserving cultural heritage; 3) Energy Auditor and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certification, including customer relations, air leakage, insulation and health and safety.

- Team members:
 - Sandy Barton, Executive Director, Fremont County Board of Cooperative Services (lead)
 - Burl Gies, Riverton/Lander One-Stop Workforce Center Supervisor, Wyoming Department of Workforce Services
 - Chris Corlis, General Manager Wyoming Contractors Association
 - John Wadda, Director, Eastern Shoshone 477 Program and Eastern Shoshone Workforce Services/Youth Services/Higher Education
 - Clarinda Bursen, Director, Arapahoe Workforce Services
 - Sanford St. Clair, Director Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO)
 - Dr. Craig Beck, Superintendent, Fremont County School District 25
 - Charlie Krebs, Director, Wind River Development Fund

LARAMIE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE (LCCC) Energy Management in Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning (HVAC)

Training Activities: Fundamentals in electrical, mechanical and motor controls as well as HVAC-specific curriculum.

- Team Members:
 - Doug Cook, Dean, Career and Technical Education and Training, LCCC (co-lead)
 - Mark Crase, Integrated Systems Technology Center (ISTC) Instructional Program Developer, HVAC, LCCC (co-lead)
 - Ed Olson, ISTC Lead Instructor and Director, LCCC (co-lead)
 - Phyllis Hime, Cheyenne One-Stop Workforce Center Supervisor, Wyoming Department of Workforce Services
 - Jeff White, Manager, Employment, Training and Self-Sufficiency Program, Wyoming Department of Workforce Services
 - Ray Fleming Dinneen, Executive Director, CLIMB Wyoming
 - Bob Strausheim, Manager, Mechanical Systems Inc.
 - Josh Story, Home Performance and Energy Audit Manager, Advanced Air Systems Inc.
 - Tony Hixon, Manager, Johnson Controls
 - Randy Bruns, CEO, Cheyenne LEADS
 - Terry Cook, Program Manager, Outreach to F.E. Warren AFB, LCCC

NORTHERN WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT Green Construction Technology

Training Activities: Classroom and remote access to training in energy efficient construction methods and marketing green construction solutions. An apprenticeship in HVAC will also be offered.

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- Team Members
 - Dr. Cindi Thiede, Assistant Vice President for Program Development, Northern Wyoming Community College
 - Chanda Richards, Supervisor, Sheridan One-Stop Workforce Center, Wyoming Department of Workforce Services
 - Dick Caldwell, Executive Director, Big Horn Homebuilders Association
 - Jay Stender, President, Forward Sheridan Inc.
 - Dr. Ami Erickson, Instructor, Northern Wyoming Community College District
 - Jessica Lindsley, Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Bighorns
 - Nick Angeloff, Program Manager, Freedom Hall Halfway House, Veterans Administration/Volunteers of America

WYOMING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION/MCMURRY TRAINING CENTER Wind Power Safety and Concrete Recycling

Training Activities: Safety training for wind energy workers and training in recycling of concrete materials for concrete contractors.

- Team Members:
 - Chris Corlis, General Manager, WCAMTC (lead)
 - Ed Murray, Director of Training, McMurry Training Center
 - Guy Hadley, Casper One-Stop Workforce Center Supervisor, Wyoming Department of Workforce Services
 - Dave McNulty, Director for Veterans Employment and Training for Wyoming, U.S. Department of Labor
 - Jonathan Downing, Executive Vice President, Wyoming Contractors Association
 - Jose Valdez, Construction Health and Safety Technician, Benchmark Consulting
 - Doren Emmett, Project Manager Signal Wind Energy LLC

WYOMING ELECTRICAL JOINT APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING COMMITTEE (WEJATC) Electricians for Renewable Energy

Training Activities: Introduction to green building fundamentals along with and residential and commercial solar and wind technologies; high-voltage cable splicing and rigging for industrial wind turbines. A mobile training unit will take the program across the state.

- Team Members:
 - Rocky Anderson, Training Director, WEJATC (lead)
 - Guy Hadley, Casper One-Stop Workforce Center Supervisor, Wyoming Department of Workforce Services
 - Pat Carlson, Executive Director, Wyoming Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA)
 - Harvey Humphrey, Business Manager, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local Union 415
 - Charlie Dockham, Business Manager, IBEW Local Union 322
 - Robert Barnes, President/CEO, Casper Area Economic Development Alliance

Projected Outcomes

The project aims to serve 2,023 participants, with 1,755 expected to complete training or education activities, 1,488 expected to receive a degree or certificate, and 1,041 being placed in unsubsidized employment and retained in that employment in the first and second quarters after initial placement.

For More Information: Contact Robert W. Black, grants coordinator for the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, at (307) 777-8716, or rblack@state.wy.us.