

Digest of Green Reports and Studies

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| Title | <i>Building Effective Green Energy Programs in Community Colleges</i> |
| Author | Maureen R. Bozell and Cynthia D. Liston |
| Organization | Workforce Strategy Center |
| Author Contact | N/A |
| Publication Type | Report – Results from Literature Research |
| Publication Date | May 2010 |
| # of Pages | 33 pp. |
| URL | www.workforcestrategy.org/images/pdfs/publications/green_energy_programs_2010-05.pdf |
| Summary | In this report, the Workforce Strategy Center looks at how the leading community colleges in the field of green energy education tackle issues, such as credentialing inconsistencies in the green energy sector. The report also makes the case that community colleges should be involved in training the low-income and low-skilled individuals to help them make informed career decisions that will lead them to careers with decent wages. According to the Workforce Strategy Center, “Our aim is to help community colleges across the country navigate a path forward through evolving terrain as they develop green energy education and training programs for low income populations. Their success will enable national and state policies incentivizing growth in the green economy to propel disadvantaged people towards family-supporting employment.” |
| Key Findings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Employment demand for green jobs is difficult to forecast. • The demand for training in the green energy sector in its current state differs significantly from other sectors that community colleges serve. • Most green jobs in renewable energy and energy efficiency require high skill levels. • Community colleges are challenged to prepare low-income individuals who have limited basic and/or technical skill levels for these higher-skilled positions. • Green energy industry standards and certifications are in the process of being established.” <p>Additional key findings can be found on pages 5-8 of the report.</p> |
| Recommendations | <p>Community college approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Form a regional collaborative or partnership among education, industry, community-based organizations, union, workforce development groups, and others. • Prioritize course offerings according to which occupations demonstrate the most potential growth. • Create courses using labor market information and employer guidance. • Determine local occupational demand and develop courses to fill current and forecasted needs. • Map training and education services within the college and across the region. • Link courses to employment opportunities. • Respond to industry demand for low-skilled occupations. • Create programs as part of a career pathway. • Work with workforce development boards and community-based organizations to promote programs and provide support services. • Share curriculum across the region to encourage standardization.” <p>Additional approaches can be found on page 27 of the report.</p> |
| Definition of “Green” | N/A |
| Methodology | Literature Review and Environmental Scan |
| Data Sources Cited | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green for All, Green Job Certifications, 2009. • The Pew Charitable Trusts, The Clean Energy Economy, 2009. <p>Additional data sources cited can be found throughout the report</p> |
| Report Geography | United States |
| Green Occupations Cited | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carpenters • Electricians • Energy Auditor • Plumbers • Photovoltaic Installer • Retrofit Installers • Solar Customer Care Specialist • Weatherization Technician <p>Additional occupations may be found throughout the report.</p> |

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| Green Industries Cited | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction • Energy <p>Additional industries may be listed throughout the report.</p> |
| Keywords | Energy Efficiency; Green Building; Green Economy; Green Energy Workforce; Green Jobs; LEED; Living Cities; New Energy Workforce; Sustainable Energy; Wind |
| Legislation Cited | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Recovery and Reinvestment Act • Workforce Investment Act |
| Bibliography | N |
| Reviewer Name/Org | Tammy Gregory/LMID/ORG |

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