

Cutting edge green job training and education programs

Providing low-income people with access to green collar jobs requires strong partnerships between green employers, educational institutions and job training programs that prepare those with barriers to employment to enter the labor market. Labor unions can also play a critical role in designing curriculum and connecting qualified green jobs program graduates with opportunities in union apprenticeships and eventually union-track careers. Labor union apprenticeship programs are discussed later in the Guidebook.

In addition to vocational skills training, training programs for those with barriers to employment should offer full “wrap-around” services, including case management, soft skills and job readiness training, literacy and basic skills training. The best programs may provide stipends or other support to participants during training and will connect program participants to union apprenticeship programs or good-paying employers. Some programs will also combine on-the-job training with environmental education so that green-collar workers understand the importance of their work in supporting environmental sustainability.

The following are excellent examples of green-collar jobs training and education programs that are providing “pathways out of poverty” for California residents:

Program name, location and Internet contact information	Description of the program offering
<p>Green Ambassadors Los Angeles, CA with connections to Southern California Website: www.greenambassadors.org</p>	<p>An environmental education program that enables youth to bring change to their communities and the world. Programs include: Green Youth Coalition which links all groups in Southern California; After School/In-School community based service-learning in-action program; National Youth Summits; Green Solution Tours which bring students across the country together to talk about green issues; and Green Adventures, a global student exchange.</p>
<p>LA Infrastructure and Sustainability Jobs Collaborative Los Angeles, CA Website: http://www.lattc.edu/dept/lattc/REDI/Utility.html</p>	<p>A partnership between public, private and community partners to implement a seamless education, training and workforce infrastructure that connects low-income, disadvantaged populations to livable wage jobs with career paths within the energy-utility industry. Key partners include LA Trade Tech, the Regional Economic Development Institute, LA Dept. of Water and Power, Southern California Gas Company, LA Unified School District and IBEW Locals 11 and 18.</p>
<p>Ma'at Youth Academy Richmond, CA Website: www.maatya.org</p>	<p>A free training and education academy for youth volunteers to prepare them for participating in city planning and community outreach activities. Program participants work with local planning and environmental agencies to develop recommendations on how to improve the environmental impact of cities and buildings on the environment.</p>

Cutting edge green job training and education programs continued

Program name, location and Internet contact information	Description of the program offering
<p>Oakland Green Jobs Corps Oakland, CA Cypress-Mandela Training Center: www.cypressmandela.org Laney College: www.laney.peralta.edu</p>	<p>The Oakland Green Jobs Corps provides “green pathways out of poverty” for young adults in Oakland facing barriers to employment. The program — a partnership between Cypress Mandela Training Center, Laney College and Growth Sector — offers job-readiness training, ongoing support services and on-the-job training, enabling trainees to pursue careers in green industries.</p>
<p>Regional Technical Training Center (RTTC) Oakland, CA Website: www.rttc.us</p>	<p>Offers multiple hands-on free training programs including hazardous waste management and environmental engineering. Requires supplemental coursework for the engineering program, though job placement assistance is offered upon program completion</p>
<p>Rising Sun Energy Center and Community Youth Energy Services (CYES) Multiple Locations, San Francisco Bay Area Website: www.risingsunenergy.org/cyes.htm</p>	<p>Offers free training to volunteers ages 15 to 22 and sends them to residential homes and public shelters during the summer to perform energy audits and installation services. Students are trained in energy conservation and solar energy generation.</p>
<p>SCOPE and the Los Angeles Apollo Alliance Los Angeles, CA Website: www.scopela.org</p>	<p>Currently working to develop a Green Career Ladder Training Program to train 50 inner-city residents and place graduates in union apprenticeship programs and green jobs. Check in regularly at their website for updates.</p>
<p>Solar Richmond Richmond and Oakland, CA Website: www.solarrichmond.org Solar Living Institute: www.solarliving.org GRID Alternatives: www.gridalternatives.org RichmondBUILD: www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.asp?NID=1243</p>	<p>A partnership with Solar Living Institute, GRID Alternatives and the city’s of Richmond’s BUILD program. Offers free job training, paid internships and job placement assistance to low-income area residents in solar installation and energy efficiency auditing.</p>
<p>YouthBuild USA Multiple Locations throughout the state Website: www.youthbuild.org</p>	<p>Offers free job training within a construction pre-apprenticeship and general education program. Participants must be 16 to 24 years old and working toward a GED or high school diploma. Participants spend 6 to 24 months in the program, dividing their time between a YouthBuild construction site and an alternative school.</p>