

## **Green Jobs Meeting**

June 19, 2009 1pm to 3:15pm

Attendee list edits: Al Devita (works with Aida Aranda, is the Laborers Training Director) attended; Connie Ashbrook is with Oregon Tradeswomen Inc.

Meeting led by **Nancy Hamilton**.

**Steve Bella** opened the meeting with a discussion of the handout “Background on competitive grants for green job training.” Steve’s comments (not in handout):

- The SGAs will be available at the end of June, after which there will be 60 days to apply, and funding will be released in the fall.
- It is unknown how the \$500 million will be divided up between the five grant programs. He acknowledged that the format somewhat ties the hands of collaborative efforts.
- Any matching funds requirement is unknown, although in other SGAs other federal funding can be used as match.
- State Labor Market Info grants: Graham Slater is the best contact for these.
- Energy Training Partnership Grants: Sec. Solis and Congress have indicated labor is a very important presence to them in these programs. A portion of this bucket will be set aside for auto industry restructuring, which Oregon doesn’t fit that criteria.
- Pathways Out of Poverty Grants: Modeled after 2007 Green Jobs Act (Solis was the author). It may get more resources than some of the other buckets. Targeted populations, and criteria for the proposed training programs are key.
- State Sector Training Grants: These will also have a set-aside for auto-impacted areas.
- Green Capacity Building Grants: The miscellaneous category for proposals found worthy and interesting.

**Dan Carol** gave the D.C. perspective (has had recent meetings with people like Van Jones).

- Obama is interested in a transformational program.
- Oregon, with its history in this area, can be an example of a success story for the administration.
- Fewer proposals will have more impact and chance of success than numerous small proposals.
- The long view on this is positioning- not stimulus. This group can use the momentum from these meetings to “scale-up” later, with the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act, etc.
- Key themes in writing proposals: innovative, transformative, collaborative, regionalism

**Graham Slater** talked about the idea being floated of a national EDA rep, but getting 50 states to agree on a council and getting the subgroups to agree is logistically challenging.

WA, CA, OR in discussions, but is there enough overlap. Another issue is how to confirm that everyone trained will get a green job

He then gave a brief overview of their soon-to-be-released report on green jobs in Oregon, which will be a significant report with the data necessary to be a key cite source for these proposals. Joins CA, MI, WA in states that now have employer-surveyed info. Discussed the difficulty of disparate methodology in different reports. Went over methodology, outcomes similar to Pew and other reports (which indicates statistical significance), some key findings (50,000 green jobs in 2008; 226 of 700 SOPs had green jobs; largest industries Construction, Wholesale/Retail/Trade, Waste Services, key jobs Carpenter, Farm Worker, Truck Driver, HazMat, Landscaper). Surveyed wages, educational requirements, special skill requirements. (Won't list all his stats here, as the report will be released in a few days.) Report will be released at a meeting on Friday, 6/26 and will be available for download on their website Monday, 6/29. Very exciting.

Somewhat brought up a key point that his data confirms that this is the greening of the existing economy, not a separate green economy. Cylvia concurred. Question was raised if there was data to show how many jobs were brand new jobs vs. the greening of existing jobs. It sounded like this information could be extrapolated at some point, but was outside the scope of this particular report.

**Sharon McFarland** next talked briefly about the workforce needs of the state. (My apologies Cylvia, I was still mulling over some of Graham's statistics and didn't write down her points.)

Desari Strater was not present, so **Lita Colligan** spoke on behalf of OSEIA.

Lita briefly talked about using the Climate Solutions study in their proposal and the job growth projections in green building, solar, smart grid, and wind.

- Then she gave a passionate plug for OIT and their accomplishments with the first green degree program and how that is now attracting students both nationally and internationally, with many more applicants than they can take given budget cuts.
- She also brought up the need to figure out, once the RFPs are out, who and what everyone in the group is applying for, and noted that there are some who may attend the meetings and then go out and apply on their own. She noted that their work fits into the capacity building bucket, so there may be grants that aren't appropriate for a collaborative grant.

**Sharon McFarland** spoke about Worksystems, Portland metro-area green initiatives, and reviewed her handouts on a green jobs survey, a Workforce system framework, and renewable energy and clean tech curriculum. Comments not on handout: City of Portland Clean Energy Fund is stimulus funded, Greening the WorkSource system sustainability curriculum is due out in August; they are interested in collaborative proposals in the Gorge- OR/WA WIBs are interested in hydro, wind, solar joint opportunities. Nancy Hamilton commented that this nests well with Centers of Excellence.

**Sonya Christian** gave an overview of the team leading the CCGI effort.

- She stressed their desire to collaborate using existing training programs instead of creating new programs (partnering with PCC, etc.).
- Their website has a matrix of the existing programs at the 17 community colleges.
- For DOL grant prep, the most likely buckets are Pathways, and Capacity Building.
- This brought up a discussion, where Lita Colligan agreed that it is important to build on Oregon's industry strengths, i.e. nurseries. Nancy Hamilton noted that the U of O green architecture program is a good example of Oregon leadership. Dan Carol commented on the phenomena of sometimes creating graduates (that precedes and transforms industries).

**Joe Esmond** recently testified at a Senate hearing at Wyden's request, and said that the testimony is on their website.

- He talked about the renewable tech program (a 2-yr program), and that wave industry execs have recently visited their training center.
- His key point is that energy efficiency is a "no-brainer," there is a trained workforce, from architects to installers, and let's go to work.
- Cylvia asked him about a stat he recently recounted, which is that of their 1500 trained solar installers, probably 20 are working.

**Al Devita** reviewed their new weatherization program, which is residential and includes Installers, Supervisors, and Auditors.

- Their instructors are going to CT in August for training.
- They are not partnering with BPI, who turned out to be somewhat predatory.
- They are hoping to get accreditation through DOE.
- They are affiliating locally with Oregon Tradeswomen.
- He asked about involving public housing, and Nancy Hamilton said there is a meeting on that subject next week.

**Connie Ashbrook** described the Oregon Tradeswomen organization, which is a network of community-based organizations training women in green jobs, trades and utilities.

- They have a relationship with Verde Energy and partner with groups including Urban Way and YouthBuild.
- They received a grant from EPA to add green building to their curriculum, and are working with K12 to feed the pipeline.
- Joe Esmond commented that AFL-CIO has also partnered with them on a grant recently, and has high praise for their work.

**Stephen Clark** spoke briefly on the Career Readiness Certificate, and the need to build data into Career Pathways.

**Roger Ebbage** spoke about the long history and capabilities of Lane Community College in the areas of Energy, Water, and Sustainability. Also, Lane CC has wage and placement stats that he thinks will be useful to the group.

**Cylvia Hayes** laid out the Centers of Green Excellence concept and how it fits in with the work of this group.

**Nancy Hamilton** mentioned the “Sectors Bill” (?), and wrapped up the meeting concluding that the next step will be to figure out, as a group, who fits into which buckets.