

Utah State Energy Sector Partnership

Submitted to:
U.S. Department of Labor
Employment & Training Administration
American Reinvestment & Recovery Act of 2009
State Energy Sector Partnership
SGA/DFA PY 08-20
CFDA 17.275
State Workforce Investment Board Application

Submitted by:
Utah Department of Workforce Services
Salt Lake City, Utah
October 20, 2009

**Utah Department of Workforce Services
Utah State Energy Sector Partnership**

Requested Funding: \$4,600,000 (FIPS 49003 will receive \$887,025 of request).

ABSTRACT (three pages)

Utah Department of Workforce Services' (DWS) State Energy Sector Partnership develops sustainable career employment for dislocated workers, at-risk workers impacted by energy and environmental policy, disadvantaged youth, and Veterans in the energy efficiency and renewable energy industry sectors.

Launched in 2008, Utah's State Energy Plan undertook analysis, investment and application systems and projected them over a seven year time frame. The plan identified four energy sectors in need of immediate talent and skill workforce development to support burgeoning existing economic development: green construction, alternative fuels, energy management and renewable energy transmission.

In response, the State Workforce Investment Board created the Charter for the State Energy Sector Partnership. The Charter will apply Utah's State Energy Policy & Plan. Charter membership includes Governor's State Energy Advisor, Executive Director of Governor's Office of Economic Development, SWIB Chairman, DWS Executive Director, Utah System of Higher Education President, Utah College of Applied Technology President, AFL-CIO Utah Chapter President, Professional Energy Organizations, CEOs of the top three energy sector employers in Utah, and other energy industry representatives, business owners, and employers.

The Charter's purpose is: Establish a statewide, sustainable State Energy Sector Partnership that creates and maintains a coordinated approach to workforce development for all renewable and energy efficiency sectors in order to foster economic growth, job creation and

sustainability. The Charter's goals are: 1) Identify and evaluate future job trends, and implement activities to sustain job growth and job retention; 2) Integrate the sector workforce development plan with the Governor's vision, relevant national and state energy policies, and the Workforce Investment Act/Wagner-Peyser Act State Plan; 3) Align research and development and new technologies with energy sectors growth, emerging business needs, and job skill development; 4) To develop a statewide, comprehensive energy efficiency and renewable energy sector workforce development plan for Utah; and 5) Expand the capacity for a skilled talent pipeline to meet the short- and long-term needs of the energy efficiency and renewable energy sector.

The seven year Utah State Energy Sector Plan addresses the workforce development needs of all twenty nine of Utah's counties and includes rural, urban and suburban energy career pathways. The job placement and training activities undertaken with the requested funds from the three year State Energy Sector Partnership (SESP) project realizes outcomes in fourteen counties, including FIPS 49003, Utah's five most populous counties located along the Wasatch Front, the seven rural counties where wind and solar energy industries exists, and San Juan county, home of the Navajo Nation.

One county in Utah was impacted by the automotive related restructuring. Box Elder County, FIPS 49003, experienced its first layoffs in December 2008 and has continued to lose jobs throughout 2009. To mitigate automotive restructuring effects, \$887,025 of grant funding will be used for training and placement outcomes in Box Elder County. Three hundred automotive manufacturing dislocated workers will receive immediate energy sector training and job placement activities resulting in restored wages and stable, sustainable employment in energy efficiency and renewable energy industries located in northern Utah.

DWS and its educational partners propose a no-cost-to-participant energy efficiency and renewable energy jobs training and placement project. This project provides sustainable career pathways into skilled, stable employment for a minimum of one thousand four hundred individuals. The program prepares workers for careers in green construction, alternative fuels, energy management and renewable energy industries. The outcomes of this thirty six month training and placement project are: one thousand two hundred six job placements, seven hundred completions of the nationally transferable credential WorkKeys®, four hundred fifty six national or industry certifications, and two hundred twenty five enrollments in apprenticeship programs. All SESP participants will complete achievable pathways of skill upgrades, with stackable credentials fostering self-sufficiency, job retention, and enduring energy careers.

This State Energy Sector Partnership builds a sustainable capacity to provide on-going training into stable employment that will bolster Utah's and therefore the nation's, economy while improving the environment for generations to come.

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