



C A L I F O R N I A

Labor & Workforce Development Agency

N E W S R E L E A S E

Governor
Arnold
Schwarzenegger

Secretary
Victoria L. Bradshaw

Contact: Jeff Wylly
(916) 327-9064

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\$19 Million in Grants Will Achieve Two Key Goals: Offering Training for 3,000 Skilled Jobs in Green Industries, Putting the Unemployed Back to Work

SACRAMENTO – State grants totaling \$19 million will help train nearly 3,000 Californians for jobs in a wide range of clean and green industries, including hybrid and electric vehicles, alternative fuels and renewable energy generation.

“California is already seeing green job growth but we must continue working to accelerate this trend. These Challenge grants will encourage innovative green companies to train and hire Californians to further our state’s leadership in the green economy,” said Governor Schwarzenegger. “It is the private sector that will ultimately lead California out of this economic crisis, and I urge our industry leaders in the green economy and their partners to identify the skills future employees need, build creative programs to train them and then put them to work.”

The intent of the Green Innovation Challenge grants is to encourage industry leaders to find innovative methods designed to meet the needs of businesses to not only fill immediate employment needs, but also for the development of a partnership and infrastructure flexible enough to support employment growth for up to 10 years. The grants will encourage business-led partnerships in various counties to develop the most creative methods of increasing employment specialties within the green economy. Participating organizations include SolarTech, the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, Pacific Gas & Electric, the North State Renewable Energy Consortium, NUMMI Transition Center Network, Workforce Investment Boards, and universities and community colleges statewide.

“This is an important opportunity to help put people back to work while giving industries in the green economy the ability to develop training programs that will address their specific workforce needs,” said Victoria Bradshaw, Secretary of the state Labor and Workforce Development Agency. “Industry, working with community colleges and other partners, will provide training for thousands of workers and keep the green economy expanding into the next decade.”

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“These Challenge Grants will expand workforce training programs and meet the needs of employers by providing highly skilled workers for California businesses that are moving toward emerging green economies, including the auto and energy industries. In an economic climate where everyone is being asked to do more with less, these grants offer an innovative approach for connecting community college training programs and students with prospective employers,” said Jack Scott, Chancellor of the California Community Colleges.

The programs offered will support the development of a highly trained workforce with the critical skills required for jobs in renewable energy generation, energy efficiency in buildings, alternative and renewable fuels and vehicles, energy storage, and water efficiency.

The funded projects will offer training in hybrid and electric vehicle career pathways, energy efficiency academy, Smart Meter/Smart Grid, Biofuels and Biomass Production Certificate programs. Some participants will be able to obtain Biofuels Laboratory Technician and Crop Management Certificates. Several modules will include On-the-Job Training opportunities.

The selected agencies for the Green Innovation Challenge are:

Grantees	County	Targeted Clean Technology	Grant Amount
SolarTech Workforce innovations Collaborative / NOVA	Santa Clara	Renewable Energy Generation	\$ 4,000,000
The San Diego Biofuels Initiative / San Diego Workforce Partnership	San Diego	Alternative and Renewable Fuels and Vehicles	\$ 4,000,000
Northern Rural Training and Employment Consortium	Multiple Northern CA Counties	Renewable Energy Generation	\$ 3,500,000
San Mateo County Community College District	San Mateo	Alternative and Renewable Fuels and Vehicles	\$ 3,000,000
Generation Power / Los Angeles Valley College	Los Angeles	Water Efficiency	\$ 2,500,000
Workforce Institute, San Jose/Evergreen Community College District	Santa Clara	Energy Efficiency in Buildings	\$ 2,000,000
Total			\$19,000,000

Funding for the program is drawn from the State Contingency Fund, the Workforce Investment Act 15 Percent and from Wagner-Peyser 10 percent funds under the administrative authority of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency’s Employment Development Department.

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