

WorkForce West Virginia State Energy Sector Partnership Charter

Findings

Throughout most of the 19th and all of the 20th centuries, West Virginia was a leader in energy production, primarily because of the state's rich supplies of fossil fuels.

West Virginia is one of only ten states generating more energy that it consumes. As energy sources evolve and change, West Virginia intends to continue to remain a dominant generator of energy, as well as a state that fulfills its own energy needs in as efficient a manner as possible.

West Virginia has adopted an energy plan aimed at making West Virginia free of foreign energy imports by the year 2030. The plan focuses not just on producing more fossil fuels, such as coal, oil and gas, but on doing so in a greener manner. The plan also supports expansion of renewable energy, such as solar, wind, hydroelectric, biomass and hydrogen. Finally, the plan seeks to make West Virginia a model for energy efficiency nationally.

Implementation of West Virginia's energy plan will result in the creation of new jobs in the energy sector, as well as significant changes in the ways existing jobs are performed. As a result, West Virginia needs a state energy sector education and training plan focusing on green jobs and the greening of existing jobs to meet the state energy sector's emerging workforce needs.

With technical and financial assistance from available federal, state and local government, business, labor and community resources, it will be possible for West Virginia to support the creation of green jobs and the training of a green workforce through a strong partnership among government and state and local organizations.

Purpose and Goals

The PURPOSE of the WorkForce West Virginia State Energy Sector Partnership is to develop an energy sector education and training plan for West Virginia that aligns with the State's energy plan and supports job expansion in the energy efficiency, renewable energy, alternative energy and advanced traditional energy fields.

The GOALS of the Partnership are as follows:

- To collect, review and analyze green energy workforce information, including labor market intelligence, needed skills and competencies, and career information, consistent with the regional sector strategies approach to workforce development.

- To support effective education and training models and programs that align with state workforce investment needs in the areas of energy efficiency, renewable energy, alternative energy and advanced traditional energy.
- To align green energy education and training policies, programs and resources to maximize the State's return on its green jobs education and training investment.
- To foster strategic partnerships, including knowledge sharing, networking and communications, among business, industry, labor, education providers at all levels, non-profit organizations and government to promote effective green energy education and training.
- To promote research, formative and summative evaluation of project activities, and accountability.

Functions

Under the leadership of the West Virginia Workforce Investment Council and consistent with the WorkForce West Virginia State Energy Sector Partnership's mission and goals, the Partnership will focus on coordinating and facilitating activities in the following areas:

Information Arbitrage

- The Partnership will develop and leverage new and existing data and information sources concerning green jobs.
- The Partnership will adopt a regional sector strategies approach to identifying green jobs sector needs, including projecting new jobs, job changes, and workplace skill needs.
- The Partnership will share information about the green jobs sectors' needs with policymakers and educators.

Education and Training Models

- The Partnership will oversee the implementation of comprehensive projects that include high-quality training and lead to a certification, certificate or degree.
- The Partnership will refine and develop green apprenticeship models and prepare these workers for emerging green industry occupations.
- The Partnership will support the implementation of robust recruitment strategies and seamless integration of support service strategies to help targeted individuals succeed.
- The Partnership will ensure the management of cases through the One-Stop Career Center delivery system.

Policy/Program/Resource Alignment

- The Partnership will ensure that project activities align with Governor Joe Manchin's and the West Virginia Workforce Investment Council's overall workforce vision and the State's energy plan.

- The Partnership will focus project resources on greening up existing programs and curricula, upgrading the green skills of workers, and educating and training current workers on evolving industry standards.
- The Partnership will facilitate alignment of federal, state, and local green energy education and training resources to maximize their effectiveness.

Strategic Partnerships

- The Partnership will convene and engage strategic partners, including workforce staff, training providers, industry and labor, in order to align green strategies with regional economic recovery and growth strategies.
- The Partnership will work collaboratively to define workplace challenges and develop innovative solutions.
- The Partnership will build and nurture a green jobs community of practice and leverage conferences and other communication forums to network and share knowledge.
- The Partnership will promote peer-to-peer and mentorship learning opportunities and professional development.

Research/Evaluation/Accountability

- The Partnership will engage in data-driven decision-making using the best available data and promote research when quality data are not available.
- The Partnership will ensure that project data are collected and analyzed.
- The Partnership will arrange for ongoing formative evaluation of project activities so that adjustments can be made.
- The Partnership will ensure that training is provided for subgrantees and that subgrantees comply with program requirements.

Commitment

The Partners commit to do the following:

- Attend and actively participate in Partnership meetings;
- Share information about the energy efficiency, renewable energy, alternative energy and advanced traditional energy fields and existing and planned education and training activities; and
- Stay engaged in the Partnership over a period of three years.

Entered into this 14th day of October, 2009.

(signature)

Russell Fry, Acting Executive Director, WorkForce West Virginia (Chairman)

Jerry Berry, Chairman, West Virginia Workforce Investment Council (signature)

John Herholdt, Director, West Virginia Division of Energy (signature)

Kelly Bragg, Program Coordinator, West Virginia Division of Energy (signature)

Dean Cordle, Executive Vice President, AC&S, Inc. (signature)

Thomas Worlledge, Architect, McKinley & Associates (signature)

Carolyn Nielsen, President, FRIEnergy, Inc. (signature)

Roy Smith, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO (signature)

Kenneth Milnes, State Director, U.S. Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship (signature)

Keith Pauley, Chief Executive Officer, Mid-Atlantic Technology, Research and Innovation Center (signature)

Pam Curry, Executive Director, Center for Economic Options Inc. (signature)

Walton Christopher Shepherd, Smart-School Coordinator, The JOBS
Project, Inc. (signature)

Rick Smith, Director, Eastern West Virginia Community Action Agency (signature)

James Skidmore, Chancellor, West Virginia Community and Technical
College System (signature)

Dr. Paul Hill, Vice Chancellor for Science and Research, West Virginia
Higher Education Policy Commission (signature)

Al Ebron, Executive Director, National Alternative Fuels Training
Consortium, West Virginia University (signature)

Bernard Gebhart, Administrator of Veterans' Education Programs, West Virginia
Higher Education Policy Commission (signature)

Kelley Goes, Cabinet Secretary, West Virginia Department of Commerce
Executive Director, West Virginia Development Office (signature)