

# Developing a Green Safety and Health Movement



Blue Green Alliance / NIEHS Worker  
Education and Training Program

Green Jobs Training:  
Resource Sharing Session

May 3, 2010



**NIEHS**  
National Institute of  
Environmental Health Sciences

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
National Institutes of Health





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The further development of a green safety and health movement recently occurred as key stakeholders gathered in Washington, DC on May 3, 2010 in advance of the Good Jobs Green Jobs conference to discuss resources and methods for ensuring that green jobs are safe and healthy jobs.

“The green jobs movement is at a crossroads as new entrepreneurs and new workers utilize new technologies where risks and hazards are not fully understood; and where a growing body of evidence indicates that green work is not always safe work,” said Tim Fields, of the NIEHS National Clearinghouse. “Yet the experience of the people attending this meeting shows that there is a path forward where training, worker empowerment, and partnerships between the industry, organized labor, academia, and government can have significant impacts.”

The meeting was cosponsored by the Blue Green Alliance, a national partnership of labor unions and environmental organizations, and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Worker Education and Training Program (NIEHS WETP), a federal agency that funds a national network of non-profit safety and health training organizations.

Fifty participants met to explore new strategies while learning what others are doing in the field. They were interested in how federal agencies can better work together, such as the creation of an interagency working group on green jobs. In addition, participants addressed the following issues: how health and safety can be integrated and imbedded early into green jobs training; how to improve current health and safety programs; how to apply “lessons learned” to a program; and how to import green jobs training into construction and weatherization.

## General Discussion

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Charlotte Brody, Blue Green Alliance, provided an overview of the issues surrounding safety and green jobs. Her organization is a national partnership of labor unions and environmental organizations dedicated to expanding the number and quality of jobs in the green economy. With partners United Steel Workers, Sierra Club, and many others, the Blue Green Alliance unites more than eight and a half million people in pursuit of good jobs, a clean environment and a green economy.

Participants then heard a number of updates from federal agencies.

- Sharon Beard, NIEHS WETP, described their program that since 1987 has provided an effective, accountable structure for training workers who handle hazardous materials, hazardous waste, or respond to emergencies involving these materials. Many of the more than 2 million workers trained since the program began have been associated with the



cleanup of this country's hazardous waste or Superfund sites. Many are also involved in the cleanup of the Department of Energy's nuclear weapons sites. Such work has long been recognized as protecting the environment and the health of surrounding communities. In today's terminology, these are "green" jobs. Proper training assures that green jobs are safe jobs.

- Ed Chu, White House's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), reported on federal government efforts to address job creation, including green job creation, worker certification and training standards, and standards for energy retrofitting. He credited the Department of Labor, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Department of Energy for their work in these areas.
- Reporting for the EPA Brownfields program, Myra Blakely, Joe Bruss, and Ann Carroll discussed their \$2.5 million annual training grants program – training that leads to long-term work and careers. They described their plans for expanding the areas of health and safety training that they fund to cover a wider array of hazardous situations, and to include weatherization and green construction training, recycling center operator training, and urban agriculture training.
- Sanji Kanth, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), described their safety and health training grants through the Susan Harwood program; and the OSHA Training Institute which provides training and education in occupational safety and health for federal and state compliance officers, state consultants, other federal agency personnel, and the private sector. OSHA is currently working on addressing 10 green industries on its website, including weatherization, geothermal, green roofs, and biofuels.
- For the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/ National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Donna Heidel discussed NIOSH's Prevention through Design program where engineers are strongly encouraged to design for worker safety and health in four focus areas: steel, concrete, architectural, and mechanical/electrical construction. It was noted that NIOSH has been provided with case studies on injuries and illnesses that have occurred within green industries and it was suggested that people forward any examples they have to NIOSH.
- Finally, Steve Lipsky, from the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA), indicated that approximately \$500 million has been awarded in grants for green jobs training. These include the Green Capacity Building Grant, Pathways Out of Poverty grants, Technical Community College Career Assistance, and the State Energy Sector Grants.

There followed a general discussion which included the following highlights:

- Chip Booth, International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE), discussed the IUOE training curricula on Green Chemistry and Green Jobs Awareness. Emphasizing a job hazard analysis, these are approximately 2 hours long and are available online at <http://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/public>. It also includes a Green Jobs Hazard Analysis activity book. The IUOE represents over 400,000 workers: approximately two thirds are heavy equipment operators and one third are stationary or building engineers.
- In response, Craig Slatin, New England Consortium, University of Massachusetts Lowell, indicated that he supports the development of such green chemistry curricula, and called for more research in this field. He explained that investing here will prevent more injuries and illnesses and that science teachers and building engineers should be provided with green chemistry training.
- Bill Borwegen, Service Employees International Union Education & Support Fund, indicated that in health care they are training their members to reduce chemical exposures to both



workers and patients through a labor-management partnership. They also have a green environmental services worker program. Also, SEIU is training 1,000 building supervisors in NYC to keep buildings functioning “greenly.”

- Les Leopold, Labor Institute, stressed the staggering number of new jobs that are needed. He felt it is necessary to think in much bigger and longer terms than anyone is currently doing – that it is absolutely necessary to seek billions of dollars to develop such quality green jobs.
- The needs of disenfranchised and low income communities were central to the comments of a number of other participants. The question was raised asking how can green jobs become relevant to disenfranchised communities and how can this be communicated.
- A participant commented that the definition of “green” needs to be tightened across federal agencies. The Bureau of Labor statistics is in the process of defining “green jobs.”
- Participants also encouraged the continuance of this conversation through webinars or other meeting methods.

## Actions/Follow-up

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- Government Requests for Applications and similar grant applications need to include green occupational safety and health principles. Create a federal inventory of all the programs and health and safety grants available (see Appendix B);
- Ensure the inclusion of safety and health principles and safer products in CEQ Weatherization Certification criteria;
- Ensure federal interagency coordination of green jobs programs;
- Comment on OSHA/ETA safety and health criteria for green industries;
- Create a clearinghouse of green grant opportunities;
- Create clearinghouse of curricula including soft skills training curricula;
- Develop case studies of where and when green jobs are safe and healthy;
- Train science teachers in green alternatives;
- Develop national standards, national training programs, and/or minimum criteria for green jobs.
- Meet the unemployment crisis, push for much bigger programs, job creation, and small business creation.

## Conclusion

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Clearly follow-up on the action items and comments that came out of this brief initial meeting can only be achieved by creating a coordinated effort; one that is open and participatory where stakeholders can thoughtfully analyze issues and balance solutions. Therefore, the two conveners of this initial meeting, Blue Green Alliance and NIEHS WETP, propose that the Blue Green Alliance act as a coordinating body to build upon the momentum of this discussion and to assist in clearing a path forward for a green jobs/safe jobs solution.

## Attachments

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Appendix A: Attendee List  
Appendix B: Green Jobs Grants



# APPENDIX A: Blue-Green Alliance (BGA) & NIEHS WETP Partnership Meeting Green Jobs Training Resource Sharing Session

## Attendee List

NAME	ORGANIZATION	EMAIL	PHONE
Ted Outwater	NIEHS Worker Education and Training Program	outwater@niehs.nih.gov	919-541-2972
Tim Fields	National Clearinghouse/MDB, Inc.	Tfields@michaeldbaker.com	202-715-3859
Ed Chu	Council on Environmental Quality	Edward_H_Chu@ceq.gov	202-456-3486
John Dybvig	Blue Green Alliance	johnd@bluegreenalliance.org	N/A
Charlotte Brody	Blue Green Alliance	cbrody@bluegreenalliance.org	434-286-4010
Sanji Kanth	OSHA, Washington, DC	kanth.sanji@dol.gov	202-693-2135
Donna Heidel	CDC/NIOSH	dheidel@cdc.gov	513-533-8489
Steve Rietzke	Employment and Training Administration, DoL	Rietzke.Steven2@dol.gov	202-693-3912
Eli Allen	Civic Works, Baltimore, MD	eallen@civicworks.com	410-929-6126
Doug Feil	ATEE & PETE	dougfeil@mchsi.com	319-533-4705
Mark Catlin	SEIU Education & Support Fund, Washington, DC	mark.catlin@seiu.org	202-370-7290
Jose Gonzalez	N/A	jgonzalez@32bjfunds.com	301-562-5301
LaVerne Mayfield	ICWUC, Cincinnati, OH	lmayfield@icwuc.org	513-621-8882
Lula Odom	ICWUC, Cincinnati, OH	lodom@icwuc.org	513-621-8882



Donald Ellenberger	CPWR, Silver Spring, MD	donellenberger@cpwr.com	301-495-8504
Elijah Clark	Maryland Dept of Labor, Licensing & Regulations, Baltimore	eclark@dllr.state.md.us	240-283-1551
Tom Conway, Jr.	Blue Green Alliance	tomc@bluegreenalliance.org	219-738-9029
Joseph Bruss	EPA Brownfields, Washington, DC	bruss.joseph@epa.gov	202-566-2772
Ann Carroll	EPA Brownfields, Washington, DC	carroll.ann@epa.gov	N/A
Myra Blakely	EPA Brownfields, Washington, DC	Blakely.Myra@epa.gov	202-566-2750
Bill Borwegen	SEIU Education & Support Fund, Washington, DC	Bill.Borwegen@seiu.org	202-730-7385
Jim Young	Blue Green Alliance	jyoung@bluegreenalliance.org	N/A
Cindy Herleikson	LIUNA Training & Education Fund, Pomfret Center, CT	Cherleikson@liunatraining.org	860-974-0800
Gary Gustafson	LIUNA Training & Education Fund, Pomfret Center, CT	ggustafson@liunatraining.org	860-974-0800
Chip Booth	IUOE National HAZMAT Program, Beaver, WV	cbooth@iuoeiettc.org	304-253-3951
Tolle Graham	New England Consortium, MassCOSH	Tolle.graham@masscosh.org	617-825-7233x19
Sara Letourneau	Blue Green Alliance	sarel@bluegreenalliance.org	N/A
Dan Powell	EPA Brownfields, Washington, DC	powell.dan@epa.gov	703-603-7196
Dave Neun	Transportation Learning Center	dneun@transportcenter.org	910-562-1566
Karen Newman	Transportation Learning Center	knewman@transportcenter.org	208-871-8610
Michael Schippani	Transportation Learning Center, Gloucester, MA	mschippani@transportcenter.org	N/A
Laura Chenven	N/A	N/A	N/A



Kay Stewart	Energy and Water Conservation Services, Inc.	kjs@enawac.com	646-214-5902
Linda Delp	UCLA-LOSH/WRUC	ldelp@ucla.edu	N/A
Craig Slatin	New England Consortium, UMass-Lowell	Craig_Slatin@uml.edu	978-934-3291
Jerry Poje	N/A	poje2530@verizon.net	703-965-4916
Michael DiRamio	Corporations for a Skilled Workforce, Ann Arbor, MI	mdiramio@skilledwork.org	734-769-2900
Bruce Lippy	Lippy Group	bruce@theLippygroup.com	410-916-0359
Jim Frederick	United Steelworkers	Jfrederick@usw.org	N/A
Sharon Beard	NIEHS Worker Education and Training Program	beard1@niehs.nih.gov	919-541-1863
Gloria Weiss	Consortium for Worker Education (CWE), New York, NY	gweiss@cwe.org	212-440-2084
Rebecca Lurie	Consortium for Worker Education (CWE), New York, NY	rlurie@cwe.org	212-647-1900
Anna Fendley	Steelworkers	afendley@uswtmc.org	N/A
Deborah Weinstock	National Clearinghouse/MDB, Inc.	Dweinstock@michaeldbaker.com	202-331-0060
Pat Neal	New South Development & Training, Jackson, MS	psneal@garrettenterprises.biz	interested, could not attend
Alexander Prentzas	OAI, Chicago, IL	aprentzas@oaiinc.org	interested, could not attend
Patrick Brown	OAI, Chicago, IL	pbrown@aioinc.org	interested, could not attend
Julie Parks	GRCC	jparks@grcc.edu	interested, could not attend





## APPENDIX B: Green Jobs Grants

DESCRIPTION	TOTAL MONEY AWARDED	LINK TO PRESS RELEASE
To assist eligible veterans by providing employment, training, support services, credentialing and networking information in renewable and sustainable energy.	\$2 million	<a href="http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/vets/VETS20100378.htm">http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/vets/VETS20100378.htm</a>
To conduct innovative projects to improve outreach, recruitment, hiring, training, employment, and retention of women in apprenticeships in the nontraditional occupations	\$1.8 million	<a href="http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=f2SJLsKFXthmphjH55gmh1VG6xLsqcSFtnLnF5mwQNG0DQMhGVRB!1704429966?oppld=53319&amp;mode=VIEW">http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=f2SJLsKFXthmphjH55gmh1VG6xLsqcSFtnLnF5mwQNG0DQMhGVRB!1704429966?oppld=53319&amp;mode=VIEW</a>
Grants will support programs that help disadvantaged populations find ways out of poverty and into economic self-sufficiency through employment in energy efficiency and renewable energy industries.	\$150 million	<a href="http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20100039.htm">http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20100039.htm</a>
Projects will provide training and placement services in the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries for workers impacted by national energy and environmental policy, individuals in need of updated training related to the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries, and unemployed workers.	\$100 million	<a href="http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20091526.htm">http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20091526.htm</a>
Will increase the training capacity of 62 current Labor Department grant recipients through a variety of strategies, and will offer training opportunities to help individuals acquire jobs in expanding green industries. Targeted communities include American Indians, women, at-risk youth and farm workers.	\$5.8 million	<a href="http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20091439.htm">http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20091439.htm</a>
Will support the collection and dissemination of labor market information, and will enhance the labor exchange infrastructure to provide career opportunities within clean energy industries.	\$48.8 million	<a href="http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20091439.htm">http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20091439.htm</a>



<p>Designed to teach workers the skills required in emerging industries, including energy efficiency and renewable energy. Program participants will receive the technical and occupational skills necessary to obtain industry recognized credentials.</p>	<p>\$190 million</p>	<p><a href="http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20100078.htm">http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20100078.htm</a></p>
<p>Will teach environmental assessment and cleanup job skills to individuals living in areas near brownfields sites in California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Missouri, New York, Ohio, and Washington.</p>	<p>\$6.8 million</p>	<p><a href="http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d985312f6895893b852574ac005f1e40/ea2cf94ddb58a83985257608006e2a8c!OpenDocument">http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d985312f6895893b852574ac005f1e40/ea2cf94ddb58a83985257608006e2a8c!OpenDocument</a></p>
<p>Training to prepare an estimated 30,000 Americans for the jobs that are expected to help transform the country's utility and electrical manufacturing industries.</p>	<p>\$100 million</p>	<p><a href="http://www.greenbiz.com/news/2010/04/08/doe-awards-100m-smart-grid-job-training">http://www.greenbiz.com/news/2010/04/08/doe-awards-100m-smart-grid-job-training</a></p>
<p>Bolster weatherization programs implemented at the state and local levels, complement and expand ongoing training activities, communicate and build on recognized best practices to support activity across the weatherization network, address critical barriers, and fill training gaps where needed.</p>	<p>\$1 billion</p>	<p><a href="http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/assistance.html">http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/assistance.html</a></p>
<p>DOE will work with the selected entities to develop low-income weatherization training centers or programs that provide accelerated, standardized, and multi-tiered weatherization training.</p>	<p>\$ 30 million</p>	<p><a href="http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&amp;oppld=50611">http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&amp;oppld=50611</a></p>
<p>Awards will stimulate and enable community colleges and advanced technological centers located in rural areas to provide technology development, applied research, and/or training necessary to produce graduates capable of strengthening the Nation's technical, scientific and professional workforce in the fields of bioenergy, pulp and paper manufacturing, and agriculture-based renewable energy resources.</p>	<p>\$850,000</p>	<p><a href="http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=f2SJLsKFXthmphiH55gmh1VG6xLsqcSFtnLnF5mwQNG0DQMhGVRB!1704429966?oppld=50214&amp;mode=VIEW">http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=f2SJLsKFXthmphiH55gmh1VG6xLsqcSFtnLnF5mwQNG0DQMhGVRB!1704429966?oppld=50214&amp;mode=VIEW</a></p>



<p>For the emerging green sector, this includes the customization of safety and health training for emerging jobs in commercial and residential weatherization, alternative energy development, green remediation, green construction and emerging industries like nanotechnology.</p>	<p>\$6,784,076</p>	<p><a href="http://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/newsbriefs/Sep09/Factsheet%20WETP%20ARRA%20Funding,%20September%202009.pdf">http://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/newsbriefs/Sep09/Factsheet%20WETP%20ARRA%20Funding,%20September%202009.pdf</a></p>
<p>Will create green jobs, promote economic recovery, and provide the investments needed to increase renewable energy generation.</p>	<p>\$3.2 billion</p>	<p><a href="http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts.cfm/pa_id=154">http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts.cfm/pa_id=154</a></p>
<p>Activities eligible include energy audits, building retrofits, education and training efforts, transportation programs to increase the use of alternative fuels and hybrid vehicles, and new financing mechanisms to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy investments.</p>	<p>\$3.1 billion</p>	<p><a href="http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/sep.html">http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/sep.html</a></p>
<p>Will deploy innovative approaches to energy efficiency building retrofits. Lower utility bills for households and businesses and create thousands of jobs across the country. Training for green jobs can empower workers to climb the career ladder, sustain a family, and provide a secure retirement.</p>	<p>\$454 million</p>	<p><a href="http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/daily.cfm/hp_news_id=213">http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/daily.cfm/hp_news_id=213</a></p>

