

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY



EXTENSION ENERGY PROGRAM

Green Jobs in Washington State

The Washington State University (WSU) Extension Energy Program is engaged in several workforce-related research projects, policy discussions and initiatives that address the growth of a green economy and job creation.

Develop Industry-Defined Skill Standards for Wind Energy Occupations

This project is underway and led by WSU Extension Energy Program researchers with support from Puget Sound Energy (PSE), Energy Northwest, Portland General Electric, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 77, the Center of Excellence in Energy Technology at Centralia College, Columbia Basin College, and the Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council – with funding from these sponsors and the U.S. Department of Labor (WIRED).¹ The standards will be used to develop training programs in industry, community colleges and for pre-apprenticeships.

Study Trends in Renewable Energy in Washington

In Phase 1 of the study, the WSU Extension Energy Program crafted the report for the Center of Excellence in Energy Technology at Centralia College, with support from several industry and labor sponsors (PSE, Tacoma Power, IBEW), the Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council and the U.S. Department of Labor (WIRED). Phase II of the study will address specific skill requirements for technical occupations in the renewable sector identified by employers, and an analysis of the capacity of the state's workforce education and training system to support renewable energy labor demand.

¹ In 2007, the Pacific Mountain Alliance – a partnership of industry, labor, education and workforce development organizations in the five-county Pacific Mountain Workforce Development region (Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, and Thurston) – was awarded a \$5 million Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. WSU Extension Energy Program is the lead energy-sector research contractor.



Report on Green Jobs Survey of Private-Sector Employers in Washington, as required under Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 2815

The goal of the survey – administered by the Employment Security Department and prepared by the WSU Extension Energy Program – is to identify the number and type of green economy sectors and employment in Washington and to establish a baseline measure that can be used to track industry and job growth in the state's emerging green economy. The final report will be complete January 30, 2009.

Other WSU Extension Energy Program Workforce Development Activities:

- Participation in the Northwest Energy Efficiency Taskforce (NEET) Workforce Development Workgroup
- Member of the WIRED Executive Leadership Council

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