

June 8, 2016



Notes from Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community (PLC)—Cycle 14, Session 9

This was the ninth session of PLC Cycle 14 that will feature informal, 20-minute discussions with EPA EWDJT grantees, alumni, and interested stakeholders. The goals for this new cycle include:

- Highlighting EWDJT programs, and identifying successes and challenges
- Exploring proven strategies and activities used by established EWDJT programs
- Discovering resources and leveraging opportunities
- Helpful hints and open discussion

Topics: 1. News from Washington and HMTRI
2. Questions from PLC participants
3. Energy Coordinating Agency, Philadelphia, PA
4. Making connections, networking, and publications of interest
5. Opportunities

1. News from Washington and HMTRI

If you were awarded EWDJT funding for FY2016, touch base with your EPA regional coordinator. It's time to prepare your program plan and administrative paperwork for final review and approval.

IMPORTANT—If your proposal was not accepted this cycle, set up a conference call with your EPA regional coordinator. Together, review the reader notes, ask for constructive advice, and indicate your intention to prepare an improved proposal for the next competition. Consider this as the start of preparations and planning for the next round of EWDJT proposal requests usually issued in November. It's not too early to begin preparations. Build on weaknesses and strengthen partnerships.

REMINDER—All PLC participants are invited to the *Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting* to be held August 17–18, 2016 in Alexandria, VA. You are invited as a PLC member especially if you did not receive an award this cycle. Hotel and meeting fees are provided. Participants must cover travel and meal expenses. This is a networking and break out event attended by:

- Present EPA-funded EWDJT grantees
- Past EWDJT grantees
- PLC members
- EPA regional workforce development coordinators
- EPA headquarters staff

Contact Glo Hanne for registration and information at ghanne@eicc.edu.

2. Questions from PLC participants

We are considering a proposal related to alternative energy. Please advise.

This is a timely request as this week's PLC featured the Energy Coordinating Agency (ECA) from Philadelphia, PA. You may wish to listen to the presentation and contact Scott Coleman regarding the work they have done in this area. His contact information appears later in these post session notes.

It is important to note, as you will see below, that ECA added an environmental remediation and technology component to their existing efforts in energy conservation and weatherization. The EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) program supports only limited training in alternative energy technology such as solar installation and training in the preparation of formerly contaminated sites for renewable energy purposes.

3. The Energy Coordinating Agency (ECA), Philadelphia PA—Scott Coleman

Leveraging, sustainability, and integrating Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) into alternative energy training.

Thanks, Scott and Keith, for your presentation. Congratulations on your new EWDJT award.

ECA received its first EWDJT grant in 2014 with a successful re-compete this year. Their story is not so much about alternative energy training, but more about leveraging and sustainability.

ECA was originally organized in 1984 to assist low income and underserved residents of Philadelphia with energy bills. Supported by the city of Philadelphia, the Knight Foundation, and the Ford and Kaiser Family Foundation, ECA was able to provide relief to city residents with energy audits, conservation strategies, and weatherization.

Converting and restoring a Civil War era building to a state-of-the-art laboratory allowed ECA to provide hands-on training in addition to their traditional energy conservation and weatherization services. To better utilize their talents and infrastructure, the next step was to add an environmental technology component.

Scott reflects on their first EPA EWDJT proposal which was not funded. Fortunately, with an expansion and rewrite, their FY2014 proposal was funded. Today, ECA provides comprehensive training in environmental remediation, solid waste management, storm water management, and environmental health and safety as well as BPI training, incumbent worker training, independent assessment studies, and consultant services.

Leveraging and sustainability come from many directions. A few include:

- Shared facilities, equipment, instructors, laboratories, and administrative services
- Facility, marketing, and transportation support from the Public Housing Authority
- Recruitment, testing, and placement from Workforce/OneStop centers
- Active recruitment networks of community organizations
- “Fee-for-training” and consultant services
- Incumbent training services
- Foundation and philanthropic support
- Local and federal financial support
- Youth Build support

The complete package makes ECA an outstanding leveraged and sustainable EWDJT program.

Program overview

The target population is unemployed and underemployed residents of Philadelphia, PA.

Key partners

- Congreso
- Philadelphia Housing Authority
- Impact Services Corporation
- Philadelphia Department of Public Health
- Community College of Philadelphia
- Philadelphia Works
- PA CareerLinks
- Neighborhood-based organizations

A comprehensive and extensive list of active partners can be found at

<http://www.ecasavesenergy.org/partners>.

Partnership strategy

ECA focuses on core strengths (professional training) and looks for partners to avoid duplication of services and build a solid, sustainable network. They place a high priority in partnering with neighborhood-based organizations that serve veterans, minorities, women, and re-entry residents. Most active community partners also provide case management and placement for their constituencies.

Curriculum

The core training program includes 232 hours of instruction.

- 40-hour HAZWOPER
- Solid waste management and cleanup
- Waste treatment and storm water management
- Enhanced environmental health and safety
- 10- and 30-hour construction
- Mold remediation
- Asbestos remediation
- RRP and lead dust

The program also includes supplemental training in job readiness skills through a job shadowing program. The OJT incentive program provides employers with a 30-60 percent supplement to cover new hire wages. This and the national apprenticeship program are federal sponsored programs administered locally.

Certifications

Participants who complete the training will earn eight state or federal certifications.

Placement and tracking

ECA plans to train 72 students and place at least 57 graduates in environmental jobs. A few of the attributes important to graduate placement include:

- A strong relationship with Philadelphia Works and PWDC. WIB partnerships are essential.
- Passive placement activities—good relationships with contractors, regular contractor briefing events on policy changes, training requirements, and funding opportunities.

- Close relationships with the Public Housing Authority to lessen the need for public housing.
- OJT programs are a win/win event for both students and employers.
- An extensive network of community workforce facilities assisting in placement provide placement depth and diversity.
- Close working relationship with potential employers including public works employers.
- Happy, competent graduates are the best placement resources.

Student recruitment and screening

An eighth grade math and writing on TABE is required for most courses with remediation available if needed through a partnership with the local workforce system.

Student support

- Hands-on laboratory experiences.
- PowerPoint-free training with lots of student involvement.
- Strong network of veteran, ex-offender, and community support organizations.
- Community college partnerships and articulation agreements (up to 18 credits).
- High school to re-entry options for students.
- Pre-apprentice and workforce training programs are available.
- Nonprofit organizations provide additional support and guidance to students in need.

Scott would be happy to discuss his approach to leveraging and association with leverage partners. Please visit the ECA website at www.ecasavesenergy.org.

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4. Making connections, networking, and publications of interest

2016 Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting

August 17–18, 2016

Travel days: August 16 and August 19

Holiday Inn & Suites

Alexandria, VA 22314

The *Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting* is a networking and break-out event attended by:

- Current EPA-funded Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) grantees
- Past EWDJT grantees
- PLC members
- EPA regional workforce development coordinators
- EPA headquarters staff

Reservation deadline is Tuesday, July 26, 2016. For additional information or questions contact Glo Hanne at ghanne@eicc.edu.

Annual Georgia Environmental Conference

August 24–26, 2016

Jekyll Island, Georgia

In its 11th year, [the Annual Georgia Environmental Conference](#) is the state's largest, most comprehensive and diverse educational opportunity. The conference will be attended by over 700 local, state, and federal government officials, business and industry leaders, attorneys, consultants, engineers, developers, land owners, architects, agribusiness leaders, energy experts, water planning districts, universities, public health officials, solid waste, enviro-tech, recycling experts, and many, many others with a strong interest in environmental activities in Georgia and the Southeast region.

Second Southeast Brownfields Conference

Save the date: October 16–19, 2016

Omni Downtown Hotel, Jacksonville, FL

Event hosted and organized by the Florida Brownfields Association with regional partners.

HMTRI Brownfields Toolbox

Session notes and MP3 recordings of earlier PLC sessions can be found at www.brownfields-toolbox.org. Click on the PLC Corner tab on the home page. If you are interested in providing content or suggestions, please contact Glo Hanne at ghanne@eicc.edu.

Types of Brownfields Grant Funding

The EPA website provides a good overall [summary of the Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program](#) including available resources and reference materials.

Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training at EPA

[Transforming Lives and Advancing Economic Opportunity](#) provides a good overall summary of the Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program, its history, and its progress in training underserved residents of various communities.

Health and Safety Training at NIEHS

The E-Newsbrief of the National Clearinghouse is a free weekly newsletter focusing on new developments in the world of worker health and safety. Each issue provides summaries of the latest worker health and safety news from newspapers, magazines, journals, government reports, and the Web, along with links to the original documents. Also featured each week are updates from government agencies that handle hazmat and worker safety issues such as DOE, EPA, OSHA and others. [Subscribing](#) to the National Clearinghouse E-Newsbrief is the best way to stay on top of the worker health and safety news.

Guide to Leverage Additional Funding

Many communities struggle to find and attract sufficient funding for brownfields redevelopment projects. It can be difficult for communities to identify how best to invest limited local resources. Sound initial investments of local funds can open opportunities for additional public funds and attract the interest and support of outside investors and lead to additional funding. [Setting the Stage for Leveraging Resources for Brownfields Revitalization](#) was developed by EPA to assist communities in overcoming the challenges of making sound investment decisions to attract additional resources for community revitalization.

5. Opportunities

EPA brownfield-related grants may not directly impact the EWDJT program, but it is important to understand how those grants interact with each other. It is recommended that grantees and prospective grantees contact the organizations that may have an interest in submitting proposals. Having established partnerships provides networking and leveraging opportunities for workforce programs.

EPA has posted the guidelines for the [FY17 Brownfields Area-Wide Planning grant](#) competition. Availability of funding is for eligible entities who wish to develop an area-wide plan for brownfields assessment, cleanup, and subsequent reuse. This funding is for research and/or technical assistance activities directed to one or more brownfield site(s) located in a specific area (such as a neighborhood, downtown, or business district, local commercial corridor, community waterfront or city blocks). Each project funded under this grant must result in an area-wide plan which includes specific plan implementation strategies for assessing, cleaning up, and reusing the brownfields site(s) as well as related brownfields and project area revitalization strategies. EPA anticipates awarding approximately 20 projects in total, funded at up to \$200,000 each. The proposal submission deadline is August 10, 2016.

Please note that applicants who received a BF AWP grant from EPA in Fiscal Year 2010, 2013 or 2015 (FY10 or FY13 or FY 15) are generally not eligible to apply under this competition.

[FY2017 Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Grant Guidelines](#)

EPA will walk through the guidelines for competitive proposals with prospective applicants in their [Outreach Webinar](#). There will be an opportunity for questions. The Webinar will be held June 16, 2016 from 12:30 pm- 2:00 pm EDT. Registration is not necessary. Access the webinar and call in at 1.866.299.3188 and use access code 202 566 0633#.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next PLC Session: June 22, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. ET
Please call in five minutes early.

Feel free to invite a guest! Send your contact information to Mike Senew at msenew@aol.com.



Visit our *HMTRI Brownfields Toolbox* Web site at <http://www.brownfields-toolbox.org> for more information on Brownfields Job Training programs. All PLC session notes and recordings are also located on the *Brownfields Toolbox* website at <http://brownfields-toolbox.org/plc-corner/>. For those interested in providing content or suggestions, please contact Glo Hanne at ghanne@eicc.edu.

NOTE: The PLC brings together ideas and opinions of individuals interested in environmental workforce development and training. Ideas and opinions are not those of EPA, its policy or opinions and should not be taken as official guidance.