

August 21, 2013

Notes from Brownfields Professional Learning Community (PLC) – Cycle 9, Session 4 (session 92)

Topics: Current Happenings / Updates from Washington as of 8/21/13
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Opportunities and News

Current Happenings / Updates from Washington as of 8/21/13

Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting

PLC members and EPA-funded job training grantees (past, current, and new) are invited to attend this year's *Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting* to be held in Alexandria, VA on September 18-19, 2013. As in past years, the agenda will include both small- and large-group sessions. EPA Headquarters and Regional staff will be there to work with us. Join us for discussions on grant policy, sustainable practice, do's and don'ts, and much more.

The cost of the conference, two nights lodging, and two working meals are covered. Participants pay travel expenses, additional meals, and incidentals.

If you are interested in starting a workforce development program and are a PLC participant, you are invited to this special event.

For questions or for more information, please contact Glo Hanne at ghanne@eicc.edu, or by phone at 563.441.4081 or toll-free at 1.866.419.6761.

LA Conservation Corps, Los Angeles, CA

Thank you, Sarah and Denise, for sharing information about your program in this PLC session.

The primary mission of the LA Conservation Corps is to provide at-risk young adults and school-aged youth with opportunities for success by providing them with job skills training, education, and work experience with an emphasis on conservation and service projects that benefit the community.

The LA Conservation Corps was founded in 1986 by former U.S. Secretary of Commerce and Trade Ambassador, Mickey Kantor. Since 1986, they have become a national leader in youth and workforce development and alternative education for inner-city youth/young adults. The LA Conservation Corps is currently the largest urban conservation corps in the nation with a full-time staff of over 150 employees who serve over 17,000 young people each year. The environmental workforce component was added to the Corps in 2005.

The LA Conservation Corps was first funded in 2005. They successfully re-competed in 2007, and again in 2009. They received a stimulus grant for \$500,000 also in 2009, and were awarded \$200,000 in 2012. Each grant award was among the best proposals of the 70 to 120 grants submitted under each grant cycle.

A large number of cleanup sites, refineries, and labor organizations together with the city's extensive use of first-source hiring practices makes this program a real asset to community residents. LA Conservation Corps' latest effort focused on the Northeast San Fernando Valley, although any resident in the Los Angeles area can participate in the program.

Below is a quick overview of LA Conservation Corps' environmental workforce program.

Demographics and target population:

- Underemployed and unemployed young adults living in the Pacoima District of the San Fernando Valley
- Residents ages 18-24

Active partners:

- WorkSource California
- IQ
- Aero
- City of Los Angeles Brownfields Program
- Pacoima Beautiful
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services
- Los Angeles Community Development Department
- Los Angeles Housing Department
- Los Angeles Trade-Technical College
- Northeast San Fernando Valley WorkSource Center

Core training program:

- 7 weeks
- 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. daily
- 82 hours of environmental training
- EPA mandatory training
 - 40-hour HAZWOPER
 - Lead abatement
 - Asbestos abatement
 - Refinery safety
 - CAL OSHA

Participants also offered additional 59 hours of training guided by employers' needs:

- Innovative remediation cleanup
- Detection methods
- Wastewater treatment
- UST leak prevention
- Landfill remediation capping
- Soil sampling and analysis
- Chemical safety and stewardship

Additional curriculum:

- Extensive life skills training including:
 - Resume writing
 - Money management
 - Budgeting
 - Anger management
 - Career goals

Training objectives:

- 2 training cycles per year (cycle begins in August for fall graduation, and February for spring graduation)
- 25 participants per cycle with a goal of placing 21. The LA Corps has continually attained their goals.

Placement and tracking:

- Track graduates for multiple years
- Monthly calls to graduates
- Graduation events coupled with career nights
- Extensive use of labor organizations for training and placement
- The Northeast San Fernando Valley WorkSource Center

Student recruitment:

- Extensive use of graduates and referral
- Referral from the Northeast San Fernando Valley WorkSource Center

Student screening and support:

- 18-24 years of age
- High school diploma or GED
- Drug and alcohol free
- Drug test
- Fitness test
- Driver's license not required

Denise Haynes from LA Conservation Corps would be happy to discuss this program with you, including use of first hire and PLA's. Contact Denise at:

Denise Haynes

LA Conservation Corps

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Santa Ge spring, CA 90670

562.949.0142, x309

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Opportunities and News

Last chance.....

Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting

Please see above in **Current Happenings / Updates from Washington** as of 8/21/13 for an invitation to this year's All-Grantee meeting for PLC members.

Wind Energy and Jobs

DOE REPORTS: U.S. WIND ENERGY PRODUCTION AND MANUFACTURING REACHES RECORD HIGHS

Earlier this month, the Department of Energy (DOE) released two new reports showcasing record growth across the U.S. wind market, increasing America's share of clean, renewable energy and supporting many jobs nationwide. According to these reports, the United States continues to be one of

the world's largest and fastest growing wind markets. In 2012, wind energy became the number one source of new U.S. electricity generation capacity for the first time, representing 43 percent of all new electric additions and accounting for \$25 billion in U.S. investment.

The Energy Department and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory released the *2012 Wind Technologies Market Report*, which details the latest trends in the U.S. wind power market.

- * Over 13 gigawatts (GW) of new wind power capacity were added to the U.S. grid, an amount nearly double the wind capacity deployed in 2011;

- * The proportion of wind turbine components such as towers, blades, and gears made in America has increased dramatically to nearly 72 percent, nearly tripling from 25 percent in 2006-2007;

- * Nine states now rely on wind power for more than 12 percent of their total annual electricity consumption – with wind power in Iowa, South Dakota and Kansas contributing more than 20 percent. On a cumulative basis, Texas remains a clear leader with over 12 GW installed at the end of 2012, more than twice as much as California, the next-highest state; and,

- * The price of wind under long-term power purchase contracts signed in 2011 and 2012 averaged 4 cents per kilowatt hour, making wind competitive with a range of wholesale electricity prices seen in 2012.

For the first time, DOE and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory also issued the *2012 Market Report on Wind Technologies in Distributed Applications*, which highlights strong growth in the U.S. distributed wind energy market.

The report finds that distributed wind in the U.S. reached a 10-year cumulative installed capacity of more than 812 megawatts (MW) at the end of 2012, representing more than 69,000 units across all 50 states. Between 2011 and 2012, U.S. distributed wind capacity grew by 175 MW, with about 80 percent of this growth coming from utility-scale installations. At the state level, Iowa, Massachusetts, California and Wisconsin led the nation in new distributed wind power capacity in 2012.

Still, most distributed wind buyers continue to choose small wind turbines, which have a rated capacity of no greater than 100 kilowatts.

Last year, domestic sales from U.S. wind suppliers accounted for nearly 90 percent of new small wind generation capacity. Broadly, nine out of the top ten wind turbine models installed last year in U.S. distributed applications were made in America.

Finally, the *2012 Wind Technologies Market Report* expects 2013 to be a slow year for new capacity additions, due in part to continued policy uncertainty and project development timelines. While the report notes that 2014 is expected to be more robust, as developers commission projects that will begin construction in 2013, it also notes that projections for 2015 and beyond are much less certain.

For more information on these two new reports, including infographics, video and DOE's latest interactive map, visit: www.energy.gov/windreport.

California Solar

INTERIOR SECRETARY ANNOUNCES NEW SOLAR ENERGY ZONE IN CALIFORNIA

Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewell, announced at last week's National Clean Energy Summit that the Department of the Interior (DOI) has approved the establishment of the West Chocolate Mountains

Renewable Energy Evaluation Area (REEA) on public lands in California's Imperial Valley. This REEA will prioritize certain federal lands for the exploration and development of solar and geothermal energy. The Bureau of Land Management estimates that the 64,058-acre area has the potential to develop over 3,330 megawatts of solar power and 150 megawatts of the geothermal power.

"Our nation's public lands are vast and varied. We need to take a close look at these resources to determine where it makes sense to develop renewable energy and – just as importantly – where it does not," said Secretary Jewell. "Working with federal, state, local, and tribal governments, as well as leaders from the industry and conservation communities, we can and should take actions to minimize the conflicts that solar, wind, and geothermal projects might have with natural and cultural resources, require meaningful mitigation measures when conflict cannot be avoided, and leverage the momentum to enhance landscape-level conservation objectives," she added.

The REEA creates a new Solar Energy Zone, which is part of the Obama Administration's efforts to facilitate solar energy development by identifying areas in six Western states with high solar potential, few resource conflicts and access to existing or planned transmission.

To read the DOI's full press release from the National Clean Energy Summit, go to:

<http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/secretary-jewell-underscores-importance-of-landscape-level-approach-mitigation-in-meeting-presidents-renewable-energy-goals-on-public-lands.cfm>.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next PLC Session: August 11, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. EDT

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

Visit our *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* Web site at <http://brownfields-toolbox.org/plc-corner/>.