

Creating Jobs in the New Energy Economy

Energy Efficiency Small Group Notes

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MGA



Midwestern Governors Association

In the Short Term

The immediate opportunity is to take existing technology to scale, many times over. This will require significant workforce development and alignment of existing workforce. The group recommended:

- Ensure that current Federal stimulus funding is used in ways that builds the capacity to deliver and carry out scaled up programs long term
- The region should leave no Federal dollar on the table
- State should make the work attractive to “high road” contractors and should support micro-enterprises and entrepreneurs to become “high road” contractors
- Build career ladders for EE workers (recognizing that many residential installation and energy auditor/case worker jobs are entry level) and map these pathways specifically for EE

EE Short Term (continued)

- Collaborate regionally to accelerate curriculum development
- Collaborate regionally to accelerate training of existing workers
- Collaborate regionally to develop EE certifications that are transportable across the region
- Take advantage of DOE and other training for higher level occupations
- Put the policy frameworks in place to allow these regional partnerships to flourish
- Engage affected communities—forming partnerships between labor, education, and CBO's

EE Short Term (continued)

- Encourage and support local workforce partnerships and create the statewide infrastructure to learn from promising practices, align policy and funding going forward
- Provide incentives to companies to train existing workers in EE operations and technologies and focus more on EE
- Achieving savings requires quality workmanship. The region or EE programs should set goals for quality of contractor work and for quality jobs

EE Medium and Longer Term

In the medium and longer term, there is the potential to foster new business development in the EE sector and to develop and bring to scale new technologies

- Incent the development and deployment of EE new technologies. Talk to industry about their needs in deploying technologies, eg technology, training, capital, staffing
- Use the states' ability to raise whole industries and sectors together
- States should collaborate to tell DOL what type of jobs they would like counted and what data tracked
- Bring communities into industrial partnerships
- Collaborate regionally to bring emerging technologies to scale. Share knowledge and financial risk in doing this across sectors

Other Ideas Discussed

- Partnerships between industrial, commercial, and residential sectors and the state to identify barriers and opportunities to meet the EE goal
- 20% of WAP funding for competitive grants to support partnerships (MO. Example)
- Expand weatherization work from low-income to middle-income communities and homes
- Build awareness of the value of EE and EE jobs
- Educate kids early on about EE and tie into career pathways

Other Ideas Discussed (con't)

- Need to identify the systems we need in place
 - Identify questions, concerns and standards
 - Lay out the vision and roadmap
- Various financing mechanisms suggested:
 - Research and innovation funds
 - Shift grant model to revolving loan and shared savings model
 - Clean investment matching fund
 - Leverage DOE loan guarantees with creative matching funds and partnerships
- Be sure to capture EE opportunities in agriculture and develop the education and training needed to provide EE programs to that sector and for on-going operation of new, more efficient systems