

Promoting Inclusion in State, Regional and Local Green Economy Efforts (a WIB perspective)

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“Green Jobs”

- There are thousands of disciplines in the labor force
- A substantial number will undergo change
 - Some will become obsolete
 - Most will change as result of natural evolution
- “Green” is a transformative force affecting the full labor force network
- The intensity and volatility will grow each year
 - Difficult to predict
 - “Green Jobs” do NOT necessarily net more jobs



“Back to the Basics”

- Platform of readiness
- Build basic skills that connect to numerous occupations
 - can quickly add specialties when demand is clear
- Key to advancement for **EVERYONE**



Examples of Current Programs

(The WorkPlace, Inc.)

- Summer Youth Employment Program
 - Total 774 youth at 175 worksites
 - 170 (24%) with documented disabilities
 - 44 (6%) in “green jobs”
- Veterans Workforce Improvement Program
 - Helping 120 Veterans get training for “green jobs”
- Projects with Industry
 - Job placement for adults with disabilities



Examples of Current Programs (cont.)

(The WorkPlace, Inc.)

- Weatherization
 - Just starting; 30X \$\$ in pipeline
 - Entry point for emerging “green career pathway”
- Brownfields Job Training
 - Training and certification for environmental remediation
- WIRED (*CT-NY Talent for Growth*)
 - Collaborative projects (sub-grantees) include “green” training for disadvantaged populations



SLII Project: Assistive Technology Access

One Stop Centers
Bridgeport
Danbury
Danielson
Derby
Enfield
Hamden
Hartford
Manchester
Meriden
Middletown
New Britain
New Haven
New London
Norwich
Stamford
Torrington
Waterbury
Willimantic

Technology	Before	After
Scanning & Reading	6	18
ZoomText Software	7	18
Large Key Keyboard	10	18
Learn to Type	13	18
Adjustable Height Workstations	17	18
Visual Magnifiers	16	18

Process:

- Inventory
- Purchase
- Install
- Online training
- Use for Customers

Now conducting statewide assessment of universal design through employer outreach



Threats/Potential Barriers to Success

- Lack of specialized trainers for occupational skill building (PwD)
 - Need capacity building and deeper understanding of learning methods
- Sustained high unemployment
 - Need comprehensive strategy based on “Job Carving”
- Failure to fundamentally alter job-creating methods
 - Need to re-brand the effort (beyond ADAA)



A National Policy Effort

- Job Carving –
 - Scientific process to determine benefits
 - Instruction on how to do it
 - Make it part of the culture – “cool” for business to demonstrate support

Observation:

Accommodations made for People with Disabilities are good for everyone

