

# Leading Global Change with Renewable Energy Training in Washington State

## Shoreline Community College

### Program Description

Shoreline Community College's Zero Energy Technology Training Program is providing the skills required to enter the green economy and navigate a pathway out of poverty. Students are accessing short-term 5 week trainings by enrolling in the Solar/Photovoltaic Design and Installation Certificate, the Energy Audit Certificate and the Zero Energy Technology Degree.

### Leading Change and Critical Issues

Shoreline Community College is leading change and providing solutions to the critical global warming and America's energy independence issues with its new cutting-edge Zero Energy Technology Program. This program is training people for the high wage-high demand jobs in the Green Economy!

### The Need

A pipeline of trained workers is needed for Washington State's Renewable Energy Sector. Washington is a leader in the nation in high performance and zero energy building practices and this sector of the State's economy is projected to grow at 30% annually over the next few years. Renewable energy jobs are a top priority for Washington's Governor and Puget Sound Economic Development groups (Prosperity Partnership & Enterprise Seattle).

A combination of market forces, policy decisions, and public opinion have converged to support positive signs for many more job opportunities in the renewable energy industries. For the first time in 20 years, homeowners who install solar energy systems will receive a federal tax credit worth 30% of the system cost. Businesses that purchase solar equipment will also receive a federal credit worth 30%. More positive growth in green jobs is expected with the new democratic President and Congress.

### The Project Goal and Process

The project goal was to develop training for the Solar/Renewable Energy Career Pathway. Partners included in the development of this career pathway were 15 industry experts in Solar/Renewable Energy, K-12, Washington State University, King-County Workforce Development Council, labor and Shoreline Community College. On April 18, 2007, these partners defined the knowledge, skills and abilities needed for core curriculum development through the DACUM process. Next steps were to hire the

faculty from the industry expert pool. Federal Perkins and State Workforce funding was used to develop the curriculum, hire faculty and market the program.

### Time Line

Spring Quarter 2008 was the targeted timeline for project launch and implementation.

### Results

The results were amazing! Shoreline Community College's program could have filled many more classes than we had faculty to teach the courses. As of Spring Quarter 2008, more than 260 people have been trained in Solar/Photovoltaic Installation and Design, Energy Auditing, Zero Energy Building Practices and are on the pathway to enhance existing skills and/or earn their first certificate or degree.

### Impact

- One step closer to energy independence
- One step closer to halting global warming and climate change.
- One step closer to training more people into high wage high demand careers.
- One step closer to enhancing economic development for the Puget Sound region.

### Lessons Learned

- Important to have a solar luminary person as faculty to teach. This provides automatic marketing and recruitment for students.
- Important to have a 6 month plan to access Department of Labor funding so the time-line does not get too short for grant proposal completion. More funding is needed to enhance and build out the pipeline so disadvantaged people can be better prepared to be successful in the program.
- Important to build positive relationships with Community Based Organizations leaders for "wrap around" services support.
- Important to have free career training for tuition and books.
- Important to have admission and registration processes smooth for students.