

## It Takes a Forest: Starting Up a Community-Wide Green Jobs Partnership

### Green Jobs at a Glance

Green jobs are defined as those where employees are directly and predominantly engaged in at least one of the four green-economy core areas:

- Increasing energy efficiency
- Producing renewable energy
- Preventing and reducing environmental pollution
- Providing mitigation or cleanup of environmental pollution

Research has shown that in King County and Washington state, rather than a separate green economy, the existing economy is becoming increasingly green. That means more green skills are needed for existing jobs.



### Green Grants in Seattle-King County

The Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County successfully applied for or partnered in three Recovery Act (stimulus) grants targeted at training for “green jobs.”

### The GreenLight Project (Pathways Out of Poverty)

**Persons served:** 450 low-income people, especially with barriers, living in the poorest areas of Seattle

**Training focus:** Green construction/deconstruction, green manufacturing, weatherization

**Partners:** Puget Sound Industrial Excellence Center/South Seattle Community College, Seattle Vocational Institute, industry groups, labor unions, Seattle and King County housing authorities, community-service organizations, industry groups and environmental training organizations.

### Sound Energy Efficiency Development (SEED)

**Persons served:** 473 residents of King, Pierce, Kitsap and Clallam counties

**Training focus:** Residential and multi-family energy auditing, weatherization, building operations.

**Partners:** Multiple cities, counties, colleges, workforce agencies, labor unions and others.

### Statewide Energy Sector Partnership

**Persons served:** An estimated 2,000 journey and apprentice construction workers in King County

**Training focus:** Craft-specific green training for incumbent workers, including energy management, commercial energy auditing, and lighting design.

**Partners:** Build it Smart, Northwest Energy Efficiency Council, M.L. King County Labor Council, and multiple cities, counties, colleges, workforce agencies, and others.

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## Partner Roles

### Workforce Development Council

- Convene and lead sector panels to identify green industry needs/skills gaps
- Survey employers and commission research on the green economy
- Use findings to develop green-jobs website, video and curricula
- Convene and lead partnerships to apply for and implement grants
- Administer grant funding
- Ensure maximum integration and leverage
- Leverage resources to develop curricula at local training providers

### Business

- Lead sector panel of partners to identify green skills and jobs in demand
- Ensure training investments are tied to jobs that are or will be available
- Build support among employers for providing internships and hiring graduates
- Lead ongoing Green Workforce Council

### Labor

- Join other partners on sector panel to identify green skills and jobs in demand
- Apprenticeship programs work with community/technical colleges to provide training for tomorrow's workforce
- Work with the community to provide family-wage jobs on local projects

### Community-Based Organizations

- Outreach to low-income communities using multilingual materials, relationships in community and cultural expertise
- Identify and enroll appropriate students
- Provide wraparound case management to individuals before, during & after training
- Offer flexible emergency funding source to overcome barriers during training
- Place students in internships and jobs through employer relationships

### Colleges

- Work with labor unions and business to develop training curricula leading to credentials in identified occupations—especially discreet short-term programs that serve as stepping stones/pathways
- Develop curricula to “up-skill” incumbent workers with green credentials
- Provide pre-apprenticeship training for students not yet ready for apprenticeship

## Speakers:

**David Allen**, Executive Vice President  
McKinstry Co.

**Jeff Wendland**, Director of Employment & Citizenship  
Asian Counseling and Referral Service

**Marléna Sessions**, CEO  
Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County

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**Lee Newgent**, Executive Secretary  
Seattle-King County Building & Construction Trades Council

**Joe Hauth**, Director  
Puget Sound Industrial Excellence Center, South Seattle C.C.