



Building the New Energy Workforce for Silicon Valley: February 23, 2007:

Outcomes and Next Steps

Goal: Building strategic partnerships to address new energy workforce challenges

Energy Investment in California & Workforce Needs; Energy Efficiency / Green Building / Advanced Metering; Solar Technology & Workforce Training

During these segments, panelists from labor, business and industry expressed their needs for the developing energy workforce.

Those needs expressed include individuals:

- ✓ Experienced with solar and other energy skills
- ✓ Who can replace aging skilled workers part of the retiring baby boom cohort
- ✓ With basic skills in math, writing, communication, and analysis
- ✓ Skilled in computers and networks
- ✓ With technical skills in power circuits, power and energy technology
- ✓ Concerned about the environment and their community
- ✓ Able to communicate technically and plainly with customers
- ✓ Able to be flexible and adapt to change

Emerging energy opportunities and examples of jobs include:

- ❖ **Advanced Metering Initiative;** skilled workers able to install, read smart meters
- ❖ **Rebuilding Gas & Electric Systems;** linemen able to climb poles and repair lines
- ❖ **Green Building;** estimators, project managers, superintendents, project engineers
- ❖ **Energy Efficiency;** technicians with engineering background for metering, monitoring; building engineers with diagnostic, energy management, computer skills
- ❖ **Solar Technology;** engineering, manufacturing, finance, sales, logistics, purchasing; solar installers: part roofers, electricians, communications, management, computer skills, problem solvers, trained in safety

Strategy Session: Meeting Industry Needs

Bay Area Community College leaders gathered together to discuss the challenges that educators face in addressing the workforce needs of the Silicon Valley. The sense of the group was that community colleges can more effectively plan and coordinate regional programs by working together and avoid inefficient duplication of programs by having good labor market data from employers about the jobs that are in the greatest demand. Community colleges could also partner with regional workforce investment boards to perform accurate labor market analysis.

With accurate labor market data, colleges can coordinate to evaluate the available resources, faculty and curriculum at colleges to train students for the different jobs available in this industry. By identifying, training, and sharing instructors for these programs, and by sharing employer resources and facilities for training, colleges can more swiftly and efficiently match program offerings to need.

Besides partnering with local workforce investment boards, Regional Industry Advisory Boards could be formed to maintain open discussion between colleges and industry.