

August 10, 2011

Notes from Brownfields Learning Community (PLC)

Topics: Developing a Curriculum
 Funding Opportunities

NOTES FROM SESSION 47

Developing a Curriculum

Consensus thinking among PLC participants follows this line of thought when setting curriculum guidelines:

1. Environmental training opportunities are vast and include
 - a. Assessment training (sampling and analysis)
 - b. Clean up training (construction, deconstruction & remediation)
 - c. Equipment & technology training
2. These topic areas apply to several environmental media including air, water and wastewater, solid waste, radiation, agriculture, energy and hazardous materials.
3. In addition to the environmental component of training, health and safety training is mandatory as it impacts all workplace activities.
4. To address this vast amount of training it is important to select core topic areas based on local needs.
5. Other topic areas not included in the core curriculum must not be neglected but incorporated into awareness training.

Thanks to: Guy M. Zaczek with e3 Energy Environment Education for his comments regarding curriculum development. His comments and contact information are below. Your input and comments are appreciated.

But I had to write to you tonight to address some of the issues that you bring up here about training.

As some of you know I live in Niagara Falls, NY (home of Love Canal) for the past 56 years. For the past 26 years I worked for Niagara County Community College and the last twenty years of that time have taught Environmental Health and Safety for their Corporate Training Center. Yes Occidental Chemical is still in business and yes there are still about three dozen chemical companies and landfill sites here where I still teach hazmat. But I will not bore you with those details.

Your concerns as to what should new employees know (or be trained to know) for this type of employment hits the nail on the head.

By developing a comprehensive program you can successfully integrate both the knowledge based classroom learning with the skills based performance results that employers want to see on day one.

This week my BPI (Building Performance Institute) training is two days classroom and three days in and around actual residential homes. The practical exam will be next Friday with one examiner certifying that I can "DO" all the required performance measurements required. Not just what I know.

Let me agree with you that in addition to the:

- 40 Hour Hazmat OSHA training you also provide
- 30 Hour OSHA Construction Outreach Safety Certification
- This should include the Electrical Safety, Fall Protection, and Confined Space topics in these two weeks of hands on "Safety Experience" certification.

Then let the local employers help to determine the local demand for these additional JOB skill sets:

- DOT Hazardous Material Regulations
- Hazmat Transportation 49 CFR 172.704 Training
- First Responder
- CDL (Commercial Driver's License)
- First Aid
- DOT Regulations
- Fork Lift Operator

I would ask you to consider partnering with the local schools / colleges to then offer:

1. 40 Hour Green Technology
2. 24 hour Weatherization

This Green training would be open to your students but also open to general community members and both students and faculty of the sponsoring educational institution. It would be presented by teachers, trainers, equipment vendors, community members with stories to share, and possibility utility representatives. But the format would be much more like community round tables, not everyone who attends needs to be certified of needs to take the test. The outcomes could be residential weatherization (specific to those homes) of it could be

a community sustainability program implementation. Both are measurable outcomes for the purpose of the Grant Monitors.

As for where do you find trainers who will travel to your regions please send me your RFPs. (Address and contact information listed below)

Above all else you want trainers with documented successfully training experience in this field who can then teach the practical applications of the identified Environmental Job Skill Sets and who will get students out of their chairs to prove they too can perform those job assignments. And you can do this at your organization but also with relevant field work before they find themselves face to face with actual IDLH (immediately dangerous to life and health) conditions in the real world.

Once again I am sorry that I cannot converse with you tomorrow but I think you get the focus of my recommendations here in this (too lengthy) e Mail message. Please feel free to edit for space and to share this message with others. Be safe.

Guy M. Zaczek
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Funding Opportunities

Please feel free to forward this announcement to those that might be interested in applying.

People's Garden Grant Program Request for Applications (RFA)

This program is a joint initiative supported by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Food and Nutrition Service, Forest Service, and Natural Resources Conservation Service, and is being administered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

Funds from the People's Garden Grant Program will be used to facilitate the creation of produce, recreation, and/or wildlife gardens in urban and rural areas, which will provide opportunities for science-based informal education.

The total amount available in fiscal year 2011 for support of this program is \$725,000. The maximum award to a single applicant will be \$150,000. All applications are due Aug. 26, 2011 and funds will be awarded before September 30, 2011. Successful applicants will establish a micro-sub grant program that will provide funding of \$1,000 to \$5,000 to support smaller local projects.

Deadline: Applications must be received by Grants.gov by 5 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, August 26, 2011.

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-NIFA-OP-003503

NIFA Funding Opportunity Page:

<http://www.nifa.usda.gov/fo/peoplesgardengrantprogram.cfm>. This page includes links to the request for applications (RFA), the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide, the application package, and abstracts of funded projects.

Grants.gov Synopsis Page:

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=KzYXTv7Q09w7VLvIxsh43vTsqnhLDwp10CGNxSsTQ1PGVLxSF4RX!751481409?oppld=108453&mode=VIEW>

This page includes a synopsis of the funding opportunity, a link to the full announcement (RFA) and the application package.

Grants.gov Application Package:

<http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/GetGrantFromFedgrants;jsessionid=tQ4bTv7Tjw2LQp8J2TwDlywV98z2McbzpGVmyF11K2xNr2pLxb2T!751481409?opportunity=USDA-NIFA-OP-003503&agencycode=USDA-NIFA>

This page links to the application instructions and the application package.

If you have questions regarding the RFA, please contact: Dr. Tom Bewick, tbewick@nifa.usda.gov or (202) 401-3356.

If you have any questions related to Grants.gov content, contact the Grants.gov Contact Center:

Email: support@grants.gov, Phone: Toll Free: 1-800-518-4726, 24 hour support, excluding Federal holidays.

Useful Links:

- NIFA Grant Application Information: www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/application_info.html.
- Grants.gov Help: www.grants.gov/help/help.jsp.

For Your Information – Environmental Justice

WASHINGTON – Building on its commitment to ensuring strong protection from environmental and health hazards for all Americans, the Obama Administration today announced Federal agencies have agreed to develop environmental justice strategies to protect the health of people living in communities overburdened by pollution and provide the public with annual progress reports on their efforts.

The MOU advances agency responsibilities outlined in the 1994 Executive Order 12898, “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations.” The Executive Order directs each of the named Federal agencies to make environmental justice part of its mission and to work with the other agencies on environmental justice issues as members of the EJ IWG. The EJ MOU broadens the reach of the EJ IWG to include participant agencies not originally named in Executive Order 12898 and adopts an EJ IWG charter, which provides the workgroup with more structure and direction. It also formalizes the environmental justice commitments that agencies have made over the past year, providing a roadmap for agencies to better coordinate their efforts. Specific areas of focus include considering the environmental justice impacts of climate adaptation and commercial transportation, and strengthening environmental justice efforts under the National Environmental Policy Act and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Read the EJ MOU: <http://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/resources/publications/interagency/ej-mou-2011-08.pdf>.
More information on the EJ IWG: <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/ej/interagency/index.html>.

Additional resources:

A more detailed discussion of program sustainability related to green jobs and environmental job training can be found at: www.brownfields-toolbox.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next PLC Session: Wednesday, August 31, 2011
2:00pm EDT

Topic: Insights, Observations, Talking Points and News from the Annual Environmental Job Development and Training All Grantee Workshop
Expected Future Funding
Timeline for the Next Round of Grant Proposals

Feel free to invite a guest! Send your contact information to Mike Senew at msenew@aol.com.

Visit our *Brownfields Toolbox* Website at <http://www.brownfields-toolbox.org> for more information on Brownfields Job Training programs