

December 15, 2010

Notes from Brownfields Professional Learning Community (PLC) Session #34

Session Leader: Mike Senew

Topics: Developing a Green Technology Curriculum – Certifications continued  
Planning your grant...what should you be doing now?

### **NOTES FROM SESSION 34**

Developing a green technology curriculum to complement core certification offerings: 40-hour training in green technology can provide an excellent supplement to a concentrated series of certification-based courses. During the last session, James Lee with the Workforce Investment Board of Herkimer, Madison, and Oneida Counties in Utica, NY briefed us on their 40-hour green technology curriculum. Those interested in contacting James can reach him at [james.lee.wib@gmail.com](mailto:james.lee.wib@gmail.com).

#### **Notes on certification offerings**

Certification offerings will need to include but not be limited to RFP requirements. Please note that the RFP states that your curriculum must provide the training listed in Section III.B.3 and states that the following training will be incorporated into the proposed curriculum and provided to all trainees in the proposed program.

- OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120 40-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER)
- Underground Storage Tank Leak Prevention awareness training
- Solid Waste Management or Cleanup related awareness training (e.g., recycling center operator training, landfill remediation and capping, demolition and debris collection and recycling, etc.)
- Innovative and alternative treatment technologies awareness-related training (e.g., solar installation, green remediation techniques, phytoremediation, soil amendments, advanced sampling instrument operator training, stormwater management or bioswale system site preparation, etc.)

Additional certifications commonly offered by may include the following:

- OSHA
  - 10-hour or 30-hour General Industry
  - 10-hour or 30-hour Construction Industry
  - Confined Space Entry
  - Fall and Arrest Systems
  - Electrical Safety
- EPA
  - RR&P (Lead Renovation, Repair & Painting)
  - Asbestos
  - Radon
  - Mold
  - Freon Extraction & White Goods Recycling
- Other
  - 40-hour Green Technology
  - 24-hour Weatherization

- CDL (Commercial Drivers License)
- First Aid
- DOT Regulations
- First Responder
- Forklift Operator

It should be noted that certification offerings beyond those required should be based on your local needs assessment.

### **Notes on green technology training**

Topics in a green technology curriculum can include awareness training in those areas not covered by specific course offerings. As previously mentioned, some of the topics might include training required as part of the core curriculum.

- Introduction to innovative and alternative treatment technologies
- Solid waste and landfill technologies
- Conservation, reuse, and recycling
- Urban agriculture & bioremediation
- Water and wastewater technologies
- Air pollution monitoring and remediation
- Radiation and radon awareness
- Noise reduction and control
- HVAC, weatherization, and LEED awareness
- Mold remediation

### **When will the EPA Request for Proposals be issued?**

The Request for Proposals for the "FY11 Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant Guidelines," formerly referred to as the "Brownfields Job Training Grant Guidelines," is now available at <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/docs/grants/epa-oswer-oblr-11-01.pdf>. The due date is March 18, 2011. We will start discussing the final Request for Proposals at the next PLC conference call on January 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Planning your grant. What should we be doing now?**

1. If you have not contacted your EPA regional Job Training Coordinator, contact them now with your intentions to submit a proposal. Now that the RFP has been issued, they can no longer provide you with special assistance regarding your grant application. However, they can track your progress. Even if you are submitting an application to continue your program, it is advisable to let your intentions known to the regional coordinator. EPA Regional Job Development coordinators are friendly and great to work with. Their contact information is listed at the end of these notes.
2. Continue your needs assessment which includes:
  - a. Contact governmental organizations with your plans.
  - b. Contact potential employers as advisors, supporters and partners.
  - c. Locate and contact local environmental project coordinators.
  - d. Scan your locality for training and job development programs.
  - e. Create a path from recruitment across training to employment.
3. Continue to expand your support network.
  - a. Scan employers, community colleges, universities and trade organizations for potential trainers, facilities and placement resources.

- b. Establish a relationship with local organized labor.
  - c. Become part of the local job development and training community.
4. Work backwards from your employment needs assessment to curriculum offerings, matching the first two with target participant populations likely to succeed in those jobs.
5. Begin a short list of certifications and training you will be providing based on your needs assessment and target participant group.
6. If possible, participate and document participation in a Brownfields public hearing. A public announcement of “intention to develop an environmental job training program will go a “long way” in developing a fundable proposal. Linking this with an existing Brownfields public hearing is an excellent approach. Ask if you can have a few minutes as part of the public hearing process required by Brownfield projects. Announce your intention to submit a job development and training proposal. Ask for support and advice.
7. As part of every activity just discussed, contacts should be asked for letters of support and input on possible additional community resources. REMEMBER, letters of support cannot be “cookie cutter” or form letters. Early in the grant writing process is the best time for assistance. While employers may not be able to commit to jobs, they can offer employment consideration as part of a letter of support.
8. Begin a short list of members to participate on you advisory board. Remember, these should be individuals who will hire your graduates or contribute to your program in a meaningful way.

#### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Next PLC Session:       Wednesday, January 5, 2011  
                                  2:00pm EST

Feel free to invite a guest! Send your contact information to Mike Senew at [msenew@aol.com](mailto:msenew@aol.com).

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

**Regional Environmental Job Development and Training Contacts**

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