



Briefing Notice

Workforce Wednesdays: Policies and Programs for a Strong, Low-Carbon COVID-19 Recovery

September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 (every Wednesday!)
12 pm – 1:15 pm EDT

Please RSVP to receive updates: www.eesi.org/09023020workforce#rsvp
Live webcasts will be streamed at: www.eesi.org/livecast

The **Environmental and Energy Study Institute** (EESI) invites you to join us for Workforce Wednesdays, a series of online briefings on workforce development and policies and programs that can support a low-carbon recovery from the COVID-19 economic crisis. The briefings will explore a variety of issue areas pertinent to building a green workforce, including high school career training, conservation corps, coal country energy transitions, growing green domestic manufacturing, and revitalizing small business. Speakers will discuss major challenges faced in each area and solutions providing economic and environmental benefits to communities across the country.

Preparing High Schoolers for Green Careers

Sept 2 | 12:00 – 1:15 PM EDT

Spiraling student-loan debt and low rates of college completion have encouraged a resurgence in career and technical education (CTE) in public schools. Panelists will discuss the benefits of offering students CTE options and the policies and programs that help such programs flourish. **Ben Gitis**, a Senior Policy Analyst for the **Bipartisan Policy Center's Economic Policy Project**, will characterize the state-of-play for career and technical education in the United States, including federal policies helping—or hindering—the development of these programs. **Cody Janousek**, a Facilitator for the **Green Tech Academy, Olathe West High School**, Kansas, will discuss the innovative 21st Century Academy model offering career and technical training courses in the Olathe Public School District, and the four-year old Green Tech Academy program, which prepares students for careers in renewable energy and sustainability. **Bryan Butler**, an Aquaculture Career and Technical Education (CTE) Teacher at the **Ocean Springs High School**, Mississippi, will discuss Ocean Springs High School's unique aquaculture CTE program that teaches students about saltwater and freshwater aquatic ecosystems and partners with the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory to provide hands-on work experience.

A New Spin on Conservation Corps

Sept 9 | 12:00 – 1:15 PM EDT

Several different conservation corps currently offer opportunities to get Americans involved in shovel-ready projects on federal lands, providing participants with work experience, skills, and a paycheck while contributing to national climate and sustainability goals. Speakers will discuss a variety of conservation corps and the policies that help them thrive. **Chas Robles**, Director of **Conservation Legacy's Ancestral Lands** program, will describe its wildland restoration work, and the program's design to expand access to Native youth. **Michael French**, Director of Operations at **Green Forests Work**, will discuss how its programs rely on local contractors and community members to restore native forest cover on lands that were disturbed by mining. **Tonya Gayle**, Chief Development Officer and **Josh Owens**, Social Enterprise Project Manager of **Green City Force**, will discuss how corps programs are providing work opportunities and improving environmental outcomes in urban areas.





Briefing Notice

Energy Transitions in Coal Country

Sept 16 | 12:00 – 1:15 PM EDT

Coal-producing communities around the country have already been experiencing economic turmoil from mine layoffs or closures due to precipitous declines in the demand for coal. These communities are among the most vulnerable to further transitions away from carbon-intensive energy sources and face particular challenges retraining their coal workforce. **Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.)**, who introduced the [Marshall Plan for Coal Country Act](#) in July, will provide introductory remarks. **Mark Haggerty**, an economist specializing in energy transitions at **Headwaters Economics**, will discuss the broad workforce and employment challenges coal communities are facing while navigating a low-carbon future. **Kelli Roemer**, a researcher and PhD candidate at **Montana State University**, will discuss case studies of Western towns that have already begun transitioning, highlighting local action and state and federal support that has helped. **Charlene Johnson**, the executive director of Plenty Doors CDC, a community development corporation run by Crow tribal members in Crow Agency, Montana, and **John Dole**, Tribal Elder, Apsáalooke (Crow), will discuss the unique challenges tribes face from mine closures and the transition to low-carbon energy.

Growing Green Industry and Innovation: Mass Timber

Sept 23 | 12:00 – 1:15 PM EDT

The United States can lower domestic and global greenhouse gas emissions by supporting innovation and expanding low-carbon industries. Mass timber provides a prime opportunity to diversify the American economy and lower emissions while providing steady, family-sustaining employment for a skilled workforce. Panelists will discuss the environmental and workforce benefits of mass timber, from manufacturing to construction. **Representative Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.)**, forester and sponsor of the *Trillion Trees Act*, will provide opening remarks. **Tyler Freres**, Vice President of **Freres Lumber Co., Inc.** will discuss the burgeoning mass timber manufacturing sector, its implications for U.S. environmental goals and the American workforce, and the policies currently helping mass timber innovation and manufacturing in the United States. **Jennifer Cover**, president and CEO of **WoodWorks**, will discuss efforts to train construction workers in using mass timber materials to assure products have broad application after they are manufactured. **Carter Sterling**, CEO of **Sterling Solutions**, will discuss his work bringing cross-laminated timber manufacturing to urban areas like Chicago and the company's innovative workforce development programs aimed at building employee's long-term skills.

Low-Carbon Small Business and Post-COVID Recovery

Sept 30 | 12:00 – 1:15 PM EDT

Small business owners and employees have a unique role in building a low-carbon and climate resilient economy. Many small businesses have been particularly hard hit by the COVID-19 downturn, especially in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors. Speakers will discuss both the persistent challenges faced by small businesses in low-carbon sectors and the additional problems brought on by COVID-19. Speakers will also emphasize suggestions for the road ahead that will enable their companies to continue to grow a workforce centered on climate solutions. **Leticia Colon de Mejias**, the owner of Energy Efficiencies Solutions and the Policy Co-Chair for the Building Performance Association, will discuss how she is working to address one of the foremost challenges in the energy efficiency industry—a trained workforce. **Stuart Davies**, Chief Executive Officer of the Ocean Renewable Power Company (ORPC), will share his experience as a small business leader in the marine renewable energy sector, which is poised to grow with investments in the research, development, and deployment of these innovative technologies. **Jessica Cahail**, Product Manager at Azavea, will discuss how climate adaptation and resilience support tools help fill knowledge gaps in the workforce. All speakers will describe how their work has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information, contact Amber Todoroff at atodoroff@eesi.org or (202) 662-1892.

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