

Green Job Initiatives in Other Cities

Profiles of Green Job Initiatives

California’s Green Workforce Coalition

Program Overview	<p>California’s Green Workforce Coalition is a public-private alliance of institutions, agencies, organizations, businesses and individuals devoted to developing a green workforce for a green future.</p> <p>The Coalition was formed in February 2008, in a spirit of cooperation and inclusiveness and was originally conceived as a funding-oriented group. It soon evolved into a larger learning community, based on the belief that shared information and insights, cross-fertilization of ideas, and the power of networking would provide a lasting foundation on which to build a sustainable future.</p> <p>Goal: To prepare a workforce that responds to green industry demands and supports economic development and growth in our communities, in our region and in our state.</p>
Geographic Area	California
Coalition/Cooperative Membership	Together, the Coalition’s participating K-12, community college and workforce investment agencies, in collaboration with community-based organizations, labor, and industry, represent one of the most powerful local workforce and economic development support systems in the nation.
Current Activities	<p>The Coalition has developed the following Green Jobs concepts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Green Root Occupations 2) Green Derivative Occupations 3) Green Root Skill Sets 4) Guiding Principles for Green Jobs 5) Applied Definition of a Green Job 6) Outcomes-Based Criteria for Green Jobs 7) Green Evaluation Criteria for Service Occupations 8) Green Jobs Advisory Panels 9) Green Employer Certification <p>See article “What’s Old is New” at http://www.southbayresource.net/articles/whatsoldisnew.pdf</p>
Training and certification available to validate green skills	The <i>East Los Angeles Skills Center</i> (one of the coalition members) currently offers accredited instruction in solar panel installation and will soon be developing a course in wind energy. In addition to this green training program, several of the Coalition’s participating community colleges have identified a number of areas of educational focus in green technologies that students may take advantage of now and in the near future.
Assessment of job opportunity, job growth	There were not enough local level data and literature on green jobs beyond solar panel installers. In 2008, the Coalition investigated – what makes a job green? They looked at seven different reports put together by various groups and identified 120 unique occupational titles. Then they worked with the California Workforce Division and determined that 25-30 of those titles were duplicates, and whittled

	<p>the list down to 90. They determined that 52 of the 90 occupations had projected growth rates, and these were validated by 2 or more reports. These 52 occupations became known as the “green root occupations.”</p> <p>The “green derivatives” combine skill sets from more than one title to create a hybrid occupation.</p>
Prioritizing particular sectors, employers, jobs and job categories	<p>The top demand occupations in Los Angeles County green technology sectors are electricians, plumbers and pipe-fitters, carpenters, construction laborers and general and operations managers. The largest middle-skill occupations in these green sectors requiring an average of 1.5 years or less of training and education include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electricians • Architectural Drafters • Plumbers and Pipefitters • Sheet Metal Workers • Carpenters • Bookkeepers and Auditors • Secretaries, General • Helpers-Electricians • Construction Laborers • Office Clerks, General • Refuse and Recyclable Collectors
Engaging employers, “Green” and traditional employers with green initiatives	Has had tremendous success engaging employers – many green employers are part of the coalition.
Engaging education and training providers, “Green” certificates, and credentials.	Post-secondary education institutions as well as K-12 schools are members of the coalition.
Standards (if any) used	They use the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) suggested six distinct approaches to assessing the merits of green jobs training programs under the Green Jobs Act of 2007
Funding mechanisms	The Coalition is an eclectic voluntary partnership – in a large part administered through the SBWIB. They did get a seed grant of \$20,000, which helps pay for local travel, memberships, etc. Beyond that, they are a social networking group and do not go after funds as a group, but encourage members to go after funds separately.
Which national funders have emerged as supporters of Green Jobs development	
Where in the stakeholder groups is the talent development initiative housed (Workforce System, Community College, K-12, Chamber of Commerce, etc)	The Coalition’s members represent many of California’s key workforce preparation and development systems including the California Employment Development Department (EDD), the California Community Colleges, the K-12 public education system, the local Workforce Investment Act (WIA) system, and the California State University system.
Other information	
Contact Information	Robert T. Mejia, Coalition Manager at the South Bay Workforce Investment Board 310/970-7700

Source: Robert Mejia, SWIB, <http://www.sbwib.org/>

Oakland Green Jobs Corps

Program Overview	<p>The Oakland Green Jobs Corps is a job training program that provides a pathway into green careers for Oakland residents with barriers to employment. It provides young adults with job training, support, and hands-on work experience so they can independently pursue opportunities in the new energy economy.</p> <p>The program was officially launched October 2008 and has become a national model. The program is administered through a partnership, which includes:</p> <p><u>Laney College:</u> one of the region's premier community colleges, providing green vocational education</p> <p><u>Cypress Mandela Construction Training Program:</u> a renowned pre-apprenticeship program that serves young adults with barriers to employment, and that has strong connections to the building trades unions</p> <p><u>Growth Sector</u> -- a workforce intermediary that connects employers, government and community agencies</p>
Geographic Area	The East Bay Green Corridor Group: Oakland, Richmond, Emeryville, and Berkeley.
Coalition/Cooperative Membership	<p>The Oakland Green Jobs Corps is a central achievement of the Oakland Apollo Alliance, co-convened by the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 595.</p> <p>Local firms have joined an Oakland Green Employer Council and are playing a critical role by shedding light on their workforce needs and providing internship placement opportunities for Corps trainees.</p>
Current Activities	<p>The Green Jobs Corps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruits participants and provides them with ongoing support; • Teaches participants "soft" skills: general life skills necessary to be successful in any work environment; • Teaches participants "hard" skills: specific required to work on new energy projects as a member of the Oakland Green Corps; • Provides participants with employment experience for a limited time on City-funded renewable energy and efficiency projects; • Supports participants in transitioning from the Oakland Green Jobs Corps into independent employment. <p>This initiative provides youth with green career pathways leading to jobs in solar, green construction, and energy efficiency. The program includes a paid internship from employers.</p>
Training and certification available to validate green skills	<p>The coursework has been developed by Laney College, and the hands-on training is conducted at Cypress Mandella.</p> <p>The Growth Sector provides students with pre-construction training, basic skills, and soft skills. Then the students go on to coursework at Laney College and Cypress Mandella. This coursework includes solar installation, weatherization, HVACR, Energy Auditing. Laney College has developed the curriculum for an Environmental Control Tech.</p>
Assessment of job opportunity, job	N/A

growth	
Prioritizing particular sectors, employers, jobs and job categories	The Corps works mainly in weatherization, energy auditing, solar installation, and HVAC.
Engaging employers, "Green" and traditional employers with green initiatives	Growth Sector works directly with the employers, and has developed the Employer Green Council, which includes both green employers, and non-green employers (such as big hotels, for instance). Growth Sector acquired commitments from employers to offer paid internships for the students, and helps to secure job placement after graduation.
Engaging education and training providers, "Green" certificates, and credentials. Standards (if any) used	Laney College and Cypress Mandella provide the education and training for this initiative.
Funding mechanisms Which national funders have emerged as supporters of Green Jobs development	The City of Oakland recently awarded Laney College, Growth Sector, and Cypress Mandella \$250,000 to administer the program. The program has expanded regionally, with the help of a Federal \$1.9 million grant and a California State grant of \$500,000.
Where in the stakeholder groups is the talent development initiative housed (Workforce System, Community College, K-12, Chamber of Commerce, etc)	Oakland Green Job Corps training programs are targeted to low income youth and adults. The pre-construction curriculum requires an 8 th grade reading and math level. The Bridge-to-Solar program is geared toward a 10 th grade reading level. The Corps is currently developing training and pathways for high school students.
Contact Information	Caz Pereira 415-902-6951 Growth Sector

Source: Caz Pereira, <http://www.ellabakercenter.org/gcjc>

Chicago Green Jobs Strategy

Program Overview	<p>The Chicago Green Jobs Strategy is a means to implement the actions outlined in the Chicago Climate Action Plan (CCAP), a comprehensive strategy for greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation and adaptation, which was released in September 2008.</p> <p>The Chicago Green Jobs Strategy will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that an appropriately-skilled workforce exists in Chicago to carry out the work of CCAP and ensure that its GHG reduction goals are achieved; • Connect green-collar job opportunities from CCAP to populations and communities in need, and ensure that entry-level jobs are linked to career paths to self-sufficiency; and • Support the growth of green businesses developing and producing goods and services that further CCAP goals, and add to Chicago's economic base.
Geographic Area	City of Chicago
Coalition/Cooperative Membership	Representatives from the Department of Community Development's economic development (ED) and workforce development (WD) divisions will be part of the strategy, as well as representatives from relevant non-governmental WD and ED organizations, including Chicago Jobs Council (CJC), World Business Chicago, Delta Institute or the Chicago Manufacturing Center.

<p>Current Activities</p>	<p>The Chicago green jobs strategy includes multiple steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The completion of a broad assessment of the potential job impacts of the CCAP based upon input output analysis. • Hiring a Coordinator for the City of Chicago to implement the economic and workforce development strategy and developing a coordination infrastructure. • Implementing, funding, and evaluating pilot programs related to the economic and workforce development strategy. • Developing additional strategies as implementation plans are undertaken. <p>The strategy also includes an alignment of existing initiatives, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brownfields Redevelopment • Green Procurement • Sustainable Business Development • Green Industrial Modernization • Green Industrial Ecology • Green Supply Chain Development • Sustainable Household Expense Reduction • Sustainable Transit Oriented Development (TOD) • Green Job Training <p>The City of Chicago will focus on many areas, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in construction training programs to prepare energy efficiency measure-installers for positions retrofitting Chicago's homes and businesses. Promotion of training programs for energy efficiency auditors as well as standardization of this work. • Supporting transitional jobs programs that provide work experience to those with little employment history and to the hardest to employ through waste reduction projects. • Working with the Environmental Law and Policy Center to determine the best plan for achieving the goals of the CCAP in the area of renewable energy while creating family-supporting jobs and entry-level opportunities for new workers.
<p>Training and certification available to validate green skills</p>	<p>Green Job Training: A number of organizations have existing green job training programs in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reuse • Landscaping • Carpentry • Urban Agriculture • Renewable Energy • Green Pathways to Success <p>A key to the strategy will be coordinating and investing in these existing efforts.</p>
<p>Assessment of job opportunity, job growth</p>	<p>The Strategy was developed by the Center for Urban Economic Development at the University of Illinois (CUED) using key informant interviews, available models and existing studies and reports to identify the follow scope of opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Job Creation: Industries and occupations where CCAP is likely to result in new, direct job creation; • “Critical jobs”: Industries and occupations that are instrumental to achieving CCAP's goals, and/or are likely to face changing skill

	<p>requirements as a result of CCAP;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity areas: Product and technology areas where, with the right economic development response, CCAP could generate new business and job creation opportunities.
Prioritizing particular sectors, employers, jobs and job categories	<p>The strategy focuses on three sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Efficiency • Landscape, Horticulture, and Urban Forestry • Recycling and Reuse
Engaging employers, “Green” and traditional employers with green initiatives	N/A
Engaging education and training providers, “Green” certificates, and credentials.	N/A
Standards (if any) used	
Funding mechanisms	To fund new training programs, the City of Chicago and the Chicago Jobs Council (CJC) will pursue a variety of funding opportunities:
Which national funders have emerged as supporters of Green Jobs development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The federal Green Jobs Act (GJA): • The Workforce Investment Act: • Local and national foundations interested in supporting green job training initiatives.
Where in the stakeholder groups is the talent development initiative housed?	N/A
Other information	
Contact Information	<p>City of Chicago, Department of the Environment http://egov.cityofchicago.org/ Chicago Climate Action Plan http://www.chicagoclimataction.org/</p>

Source: “A Workforce and Economic Development Strategy for the Chicago Climate Action Plan,” UIC Center for Urban Economic Development Center on Wisconsin Strategy Green For All, December 2008.

Chicagoland Green Collar Jobs Initiative

Program Overview	<p>The mission of Chicagoland Green Collar Jobs Initiative is to develop a skilled workforce that is ready to meet employer demands in the new “green” market and to capture new employment opportunities for Chicagoland low-skilled individuals.</p> <p>The Chicagoland Green Collar Jobs Initiative was founded in September 2007 with the intent of organizing stakeholders around the opportunities and resources around green collar jobs.</p>
Geographic Area	The Chicagoland Region, which includes Milwaukee, Northern Indiana, and Cook, Lake, and DuPage Counties in Chicago.
Coalition/Cooperative Membership	The Initiative is a collaboration of partners from labor groups, community organizations, businesses, community colleges, sustainability organizations, and environmental and workforce development non-profits.
Current Activities	Currently working on a research project, to be completed and distributed in May, that identifies the most promising green collar jobs in the Chicagoland Region, matches those with existing

	<p>workforce development programs, and makes recommendations on additional training programs needed and policies to help create a green collar economy.</p> <p>In the coming year, the Initiative will work to distribute that work, continue ongoing partner meetings, and build the capacity of the Initiative.</p>
Training and certification available to validate green skills	The Initiative does not train/certify.
Assessment of job opportunity, job growth	<p>Based on initial research conducted by the Chicagoland Green Collar Jobs Initiative, some of the prevalent green collar jobs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • energy raters for homes and commercial buildings • green cleaning and building maintenance staff; alternative energy service providers (solar, wind, geo-thermal) • installer/ maintenance of stormwater management systems (green roof, permeable pavement, rain water collection) • urban agriculture (landscaping, farming, apiculture) and green-related services (recycling, retail, manufacturing) <p>The Initiative has done primarily direct outreach to employers, job placement agencies, etc to determine what is happening now.</p>
Prioritizing particular sectors, employers, jobs and job categories	<p>The Chicagoland Green Collar Jobs Initiative focuses on four green collar job sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Agriculture and Horticulture • Building Construction, Operations & Maintenance • Green Products and Services • Energy Efficiency & Alternative Energy <p>Future work will focus on selecting two promising job types and drafting a program development plan for these jobs that will serve as a program model for additional job and career selections. The model will identify program components to be developed including job readiness, participant support services, career counseling, training classes that link existing programs as well as new classes to be developed on a career path, curriculum development needs, employment, retention and advancement training. Strong emphasis will be on mapping a career path and gaining the training, credentials and work experience necessary to advance.</p>
Engaging employers, “Green” and traditional employers with green initiatives	<p>Through the Initiative’s Partner and Steering Committee member, the Chicago Sustainable Business Alliance, and other contacts. Businesses are struggling right now and see the green wave coming and have been willing to participate. The Initiative’s next struggle will be to engage the larger businesses. Another struggle is duplication of effort.</p>
Engaging education and training providers, “Green” certificates, and credentials.	Education and training providers have been coming to the Initiative.
Standards (if any) used	
Funding mechanisms	Current funding includes the following:
Which national funders have emerged as supporters of Green Jobs development	<p>Grand Victoria Foundation Field Foundation The LEED Council The Initiative is currently pursuing many other sources of funding.</p>

	LEED Council is the 'home' of the Initiative and serves as the fiduciary agent.
Contact Information	Chicagoland Green Collar Jobs Initiative c/o LEED Council 1866 North Marcey Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60614 P 773.929.5552 x 226 www.greencollarchicago.org

Source: Paige Finnegan, Director

American YouthWorks: Casa Verde YouthBuild

Program Overview	Casa Verde Builders (CVB) is an award-winning, project-based education program, at American YouthWorks (AYW), providing participants with hands-on construction skills and applied academics by building single-family, energy-efficient, affordable housing in East Austin communities. CVB members work to improve their own neighborhoods while pursuing their high school diploma or GED.
Geographic Area	Austin, Texas
Coalition/Cooperative Membership	
Green Training Program	<p>The Casa Verde YouthBuild program helps youth and young adults (ages 17-24) learn construction skills by building environmentally friendly houses in Austin. In addition to earning industry certificates in construction, students earn college scholarship money. Casa Verde uses 60 percent recyclable material as well as solar screens and other technologies to make homes more energy-efficient.</p> <p>As part of the AmeriCorps National Volunteer Service Program, CVB members earn a living allowance and are provided health care. Those who successfully complete their 12-month service will also earn a \$4,725 award for higher education or trade school.</p> <p>American YouthWorks is focused on training for a variety of occupations in solar and wind power, building energy management, water harvesting, healthy food and commercial kitchens</p>
Number of Participants to Date	<p>Currently, the Casa Verde YouthBuild program serves 22 students, however enrollment ranges from 22 – 35 students at any given time. At least 30 percent of graduates have gone into the skilled trades industry. Five recent graduates are currently in a stone cutting artisan apprentice program in the Austin area.</p> <p>Since the Casa Verde Builders program's inception in 1994, more than 100 homes have been built and over 1,000 young people have gained job and life skills as they construct these homes from the ground up. Nearly \$900,000 in property taxes have been generated for the City of Austin from Casa Verde Builder homes.</p>
Program Funding	<p>The Casa Verde program is partially funded through the Department of Labor's (DOL) YouthBuild program and has received other investments from industry, foundations and other state, local and Federal entities.</p> <p>In September 2008, the U.S. Economic Development Administration issued a grant to redevelop one of American YouthWorks high school campuses into a Green Jobs Training Center (EDA also</p>

	issued a grant in 1999 to YouthWorks to build the first green-built school and commercial building in Austin). The training center, set to break ground this month, will serve as an energy magnet high school. The Green Training Center, which will be complete in August 2009, has also received a Workforce Training Grant from DOL's Employment and Training Administration and continues to seek investment to ensure success.
Contact Information	Richard Halpin, Chief Executive Officer/Founder, 236-6155

Source: EDA, Volume 2, Issue 3, <http://www.eda.gov/PDF/edavol2issue3.pdf>, and American YouthWorks, <http://www.americanyouthworks.org/index.htm>

Richmond BUILD

Program Overview	<p>The Richmond BUILD Pre-apprenticeship Construction Skills & Solar Installation Training program was first developed to create employment and career opportunities for Richmond residents and also to implement a strategy for reducing violence in the community.</p> <p>Richmond BUILD was established in May 2007 and has quickly become a model of effective and broad public/private partnership that is focused on developing talent and skills in the high growth and high wage construction and renewable energy fields.</p>
Geographic Area	Richmond, California
Coalition/Cooperative Membership	RichmondBUILD's innovative job training program is made possible by a robust partnership created by the City of Richmond's Employment & Training Department, and includes various public and private partners. These partners include the City of Richmond's Redevelopment Agency, Housing Authority, Housing Department, and Department of Public Works; along with community based organizations Solar Richmond, the Solar Living Institute, and Rising Sun Energy Center; West Contra Costa Adult Education, Carpenters Local 152, and a number of employers.
Green Training Program	RichmondBUILD provides a comprehensive ten week training program that includes instruction in power tools, framing, electrical, plumbing, welding, and a strong green component that incorporates eco literacy, energy efficiency, and solar installation. As part of the training, students participate in two live solar installations for low income Richmond homeowners. This unique training opportunity delivers a triple benefit: participants experience an effective hands-on training in solar installation, homeowners receive a no-cost solar system that allows them to immediately save money on their energy bill, and our planet benefits from the reduction in carbon emissions.
Number of Participants to Date	<p>Since its inception in April 2007, a total of 150 participants have graduated from RichmondBUILD.</p> <p>Richmond BUILD has 90% placement rate at an average starting wage of \$18.33 an hour for program graduates. Eighteen (25) graduates have obtained employment in the Green-Collar industry.</p>
Program Funding	The total cost for the solar training component, the solar system, and installation is covered by the Housing Department of the City of Richmond.
Other Information	See attached career ladder

	http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/DocumentView.asp?DID=3701
Contact Information	Sal Vaca, Director RichmondWORKS 330 25th Street Richmond, CA 94804 510-307-8014

Source: <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.asp?NID=275>

Gainesville's Solar Feed-in Tariff Program (FIT)

Program Overview	<p>Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) offers GRU electric customers a chance to invest in solar photovoltaic (PV) systems and sell all the electricity that they produce directly to GRU with a newly adopted Solar Feed-in Tariff Program.</p> <p>Florida will be the first state in the nation to offer this type of program. The City of Gainesville looked to Germany, a country that has seen the fastest rates of solar PV adoption. In Germany, a system called Feed-in Tariff was developed in the 90's and became a national law in 2000, and doubles (or more) the price that is paid by the utility to the homeowner for their solar energy.</p>
Geographic Area	GRU customers in Gainesville, FL
Coalition/Cooperative Membership	Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) is a multi-service utility owned by the City of Gainesville and is the 5th largest municipal electric utility in Florida.
Green Program	<p>The Feed-in Tariff (FiT) justifies a tariff that is levied not on the consumer directly but on the utility that is fed the energy (hence "feed-in") since it serves to mitigate the cost of carbon dioxide emissions and helps stimulate the fledgling solar industry. It requires two meters -- one that measures the home's direct energy use (which they homeowner uses free of charge), and a second meter which measures the output that is fed to the grid.</p> <p>Participants signing up during the first two years of the program will be guaranteed a fixed rate of US \$0.32 per kilowatt-hour of electricity produced for 20 years.</p> <p>GRU's previous program offered rebates to encourage the installation of PV systems and then bought back the excess power that was not used in the home or business. The advantage of the FIT is that the participant's income is much more predictable, because all of the power generated will be sold directly to GRU. This factor is expected to increase participation.</p> <p>GRU estimates that investors will see a five percent return on investment for large-scale projects. The order from the Gainesville City Commission does however set a total installation cap of 4 megawatts (MW) per year. The entire state currently has approximately 2 MW of capacity installed.</p>
Current Data	Gainesville Regional Utilities sends word it has already received completed applications for the maximum power capacity allotted for in the program for this year. As of March 1 applications may still be submitted for participation in 2010.
Program Funding	The costs of running the program would be passed on to ratepayers.

	The GRU said its customers could expect an average increase of 42 cents per bill in 2009, provided that there isn't a dramatic increase in the amount of solar power generation.
Other information	<p>Currently there is not a uniform approach to the training of solar installers. The traditional week long courses at FSEC and SEI are booked for months and there is a shortage of skilled trainers.</p> <p>The local community college is interested in offering a 45 day crash course and the local chapter of the IBEW union has a training program as part of the apprenticeship for electricians. But the latter is a four-year program.</p> <p>Feed-in tariff legislation is in the works in the states of Hawaii, California, Oregon, and Washington</p>
Contact Information	<p>Program developed by Harry Kegelmann, from Advanced Solar Technologies (AST) http://ast-solar.com/</p> <p>The program is administered by GRU. http://www.gru.com/</p>

Source: <http://www.gru.com/Pdf/AboutGRU/News/FIT/Gainesville%20FIT%20Synopsis.pdf>

Other Noteworthy Programs

The Center on Wisconsin Strategy (COWS)

The Center on Wisconsin Strategy (COWS) has deep roots in the state of Wisconsin, but its work has now grown to address issues, organizations, and leaders across the nation. COWS is a national policy center and field laboratory for high-road economic development — a competitive market economy of shared prosperity, environmental sustainability, and capable democratic government.

COWS’ work is collaborative, experimental, and evidence-driven. Working with business, government, labor, and communities, we try out new ideas, test their effectiveness, and disseminate those with promise. We believe that the best way to predict the future is to start making it, particularly in our states and metro regions.

COWS collaborates with other groups and institutions to conduct research and policy projects, address key public policy issues, and educate the general public about their work. Collaborations and projects include:

- **Apollo Alliance** - A national campaign of labor, environmental, and civil rights organizations to create jobs through energy efficiency in communities across the country.
- **Emerald Cities Initiative** - The Emerald Cities Initiative is a small group of business, labor, and community leaders fulfilling the promise of “high-road efficiency cities” (aka “equity efficiency cities” or “emerald cities”) — that is, cities that organize themselves to

become more energy efficient and less CO₂e-emitting, with equitable local capture of the benefits of doing so.

- **Governor's Consortium on Biobased Industry** - COWS served as a consultant to the Governor's Consortium on Biobased Industry. The Consortium was formed in May 2005 to recommend state goals and policies for the development of a Wisconsin bioeconomy, based on turning feedstocks such as crops, animal waste, and forest products into energy, fuel, and other marketable products.
- **Green For All** - Green For All is a national organization dedicated to building an inclusive green economy strong enough to lift people out of poverty.
- **Milwaukee Energy Efficiency (Me2)** – Profiled on the following page.

For more information: <http://www.cows.org/>

Milwaukee Energy Efficient (Me2) Program

Program Overview	COWS and the City of Milwaukee are working with local political, labor, community, and business leaders to retrofit much of the city's building stock. The project, called Milwaukee Energy Efficiency (Me2), allows property owners and renters to implement energy efficiency measures with immediate savings and no upfront costs. It saves customers money, helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and generates local employment.
Geographic Area	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Coalition/Cooperative Membership	COWS and the City of Milwaukee
Green Program	Me2 will create jobs — ranging from entry level to highly skilled — and fill them locally. Preliminary estimates suggest that the project will generate thousands of person-years of employment for installation work. These will be good jobs with real opportunities for advancement. Me2 is working with local labor and community leaders and training providers to make sure the program is open to those who are often excluded from the workforce.
Current Data	COWS is currently working with state and local partners toward a pilot of the Me2 model.
Program Funding	Me2 will use both public monies and private capital for the work involved in the project. Costs will be fully repaid by program participants via charges on their utility or municipal services bills, but on a schedule that allows them immediate savings. If a participating tenant leaves the property before repayment is complete, the remaining obligation goes to the next tenant. If a participating owner sells the property, the obligation goes to the new owner or is wrapped into the sales price. This design minimizes risk to both participants and creditors.
Other information: Billing Model	Me2 employs an innovative financing program that would allow building owners to pay for energy efficiency improvements out of the energy savings. Several states have started similar programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michigan Public Service Commission order • New Hampshire PUC order • New Hampshire program evaluation • New Hampshire Electric Co-op tariff • Public Service of New Hampshire tariff • Hawaii SB 2957

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hawaiian Electric Co. tariff • Kansas Corporation Commission order Midwest Energy news release
Contact Information	Elissa Berger Me2 Coordinator eberger@cows.org

Source: <http://www.cows.org/pdf/me2summary.pdf>

Sustainable South Bronx (SSBx)

Sustainable South Bronx (SSBx) - a long-standing local environmental justice group. Since 2003, the environmental group has trained 70 former drug addicts, welfare recipients and convicts for jobs in landscaping, ecological restoration, green roof installation and hazardous waste cleanup. The Bronx group is at the forefront of a movement to put low-income and low-skilled workers in "green collar" jobs: manual work in fields that help the environment. For more information: <http://www.ssbx.org/>

Projects at SSBx include:

- **Greenway:** The South Bronx Greenway Project (SBG) is a community led plan for a bicycle/pedestrian greenway along the South Bronx waterfront, which will provide much needed open space, waterfront access and opportunities for mixed used economic development.
- **SmartRoofs Project:** SSBx and SmartRoofs, LLC is demonstrating the positive connection between living wage jobs and a cleaner environment.
- **BEST:** the Bronx Environmental Stewardship Training (BEST) program is one of the nation's first and most successful green-collar job training & placement systems. Students graduate with several certifications, job readiness preparation, and a powerful environmental justice perspective on all of the important work they are qualified to do. Nearly all of the students were on some form of public assistance, and about half have prison records. This 14-16-week program is free to qualified applicants.

Urban Agenda, New York

Urban Agenda, New York - is working to connect labor unions, environmentalists and environmental justice advocates, businesses, educators, and community organizations together around the need to respond to climate change, while simultaneously seizing opportunities to improve the socio-economic situation for New Yorkers in the transition to a clean energy economy. The major program at Urban Agenda, New York is the following:

Growing Green Collar Jobs: Urban Agenda, as convener of the NYC Apollo Alliance, has built a working coalition with business, labor, advocacy, workforce development, and environmental justice organizations. In addition, Urban Agenda benefits from its close working relationship with the NYC Central Labor Council (CLC) and the knowledge and reach of the CLC's 400 affiliated unions representing 1.3 million workers.

To address the lack of a coordinated workforce development plan Urban Agenda is spearheading the Green Collar Jobs Roundtable: a multi-stakeholder campaign initiated in 2008 to mobilize the City to prepare New Yorkers for green collar jobs. The Roundtable will chart a green jobs workforce development roadmap and make recommendations on practical implementation areas such as:

- Connecting with employers.
- Training curricula.
- Job certification.
- Leveraging existing workforce development resources.

Additionally, in 2007, Urban Agenda published a report that looks at job opportunities and challenges in improving energy efficiency in existing buildings, one of New York City's largest, fastest growing and most promising sectors.

Growing Green Collar Jobs: Energy Efficiency analyzes the jobs necessary to upgrade, maintain and manage energy efficiency in the built environment, as well as offers an advocacy agenda of specific, practical, policy and program recommendations to make the City more sustainable.

For more information: <http://www.urbanagenda.org/index.htm>

Solar Cities

Solar America Cities is a partnership between the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and a select group of cities across the country that have committed to accelerating the adoption of solar energy technologies at the local level. Twenty-five cities were selected in 2007 and 2008, and received a combined \$5 million in DOE funding in addition to substantial hands-on technical assistance over two years. San Antonio, TX was one of these cities, selected in 2008. For detailed information on the selected Solar Cities, see <http://www.solaramericacities.energy.gov/About.aspx>

A few of these cities include:

Austin, TX

Austin is pursuing a comprehensive strategy to transform the market for solar energy technologies, both locally and regionally. Austin plans to establish benchmarks for distributed and central (relatively large, power-plant scale) installations of solar energy to be integrated into the generation plan for the local utility, Austin Energy. The Austin Solar America City partnership will reduce information barriers that prevent participation in the city's renewable energy and energy conservation programs. Austin will also increase public knowledge about solar energy by educating the city's teachers and youth about the benefits of solar energy and by installing highly-visible solar systems.

For more information: Leslie Libby, Manager - Solar Programs, Austin Energy (512) 482-5390

Houston, TX

The City of Houston is committed to achieving a sustainable solar infrastructure through strategic partnerships that address market barriers for solar energy. The “Houston Solar Initiative” (the name of Houston’s Solar America Cities project) is dedicated to this long-term goal while focusing on near- and mid-term results that go beyond experimental solar projects.

For more information: Cris Eugster, Chief Officer for Sustainable Growth, City of Houston (832) 393-0976

Knoxville, TN

The Knoxville Solar Cities program builds on the city’s Energy & Sustainability Initiative, a set of existing partnerships between the city and local institutions aimed at reducing energy consumption and enhancing Knoxville’s overall sustainability.

For more information: Madeleine Weil, Deputy Director of Policy and Communications, City of Knoxville (865) 215-2680

San Diego, CA

San Diego is California’s second largest city and the eighth largest in the nation. The city has experienced rapid growth, which has led to a significant increase in the city’s energy demand. San Diego’s Solar America Cities project aims to improve the sustainability of the region by building an energy infrastructure that is diversified, reliable, and as self-contained as possible. Solar energy offers these attributes, and San Diego’s climate makes it well suited for extensive solar power development. The City of San Diego plans to launch a pilot financing program in fall 2009 that will allow residents to pay for the cost of solar installations through a monthly assessment on their property taxes.

For more information: Linda Giannelli Pratt, Program Chief, Energy, Sustainability and Environmental Protection Division, City of San Diego Environmental Services Department (858) 492-5088