

PE8 Action: Green Jobs Training

3 Points

A. Why is this action important?

An essential component of shifting to a green economy is training individuals for the jobs that such an economy will create. Green jobs can include the following, among others, each requiring new or adapted skills for a clean, green economy:

- Energy Manager
- Green Building Professional
- Renewable Energy Installer
- Recycled Materials Handler/Hauler
- Biofuels Producer
- Land-use planner
- Energy Auditor
- Clean Technology Manufacturer/Researcher/Developer
- Sustainability Educator
- Brownfield Remediation Worker

Similarly, a shift to a greener economy will require a shift in the information and skills taught in schools that prepare students for their future jobs.

B. How to implement this action

Local governments must determine the type of training that is most appropriate to the economy in their community and region. Smaller communities may seek to collaborate with neighboring communities to develop a green jobs training program that addresses the needs of the region. You must understand the job shortages in the community or region and local demand for certain green jobs or skills. Regional Economic Development Councils and associated regional economic development plans can help to inform the needs and types of programs which are most in demand locally. In addition, local governments should work with local trade organizations, vocational schools, and community colleges to survey existing training programs and gather information on the demand for new training programs. Once you have a good understanding of the demand and needs, you can develop the plans for the training program.

Local government staff should go through a “train the trainer” effort to work on greening existing job training curriculum and training staff on more sustainable approaches to be incorporated into their training programs. Implementing the green jobs training program could involve launching a whole new training course or program or updating existing training programs to incorporate sustainable principles and practices.

Local governments should track the number of attendees of the training program and, if possible, the subsequent job placement of the trained professionals. You may elect to highlight the success and impact of their training program through a press release, or possibly an event tied to a larger sustainability announcement or engagement opportunity.

Local governments can consider the expansion and improvement of existing education programs. Business owners can be educated on the benefits of investing in their workers to take advantage of market opportunities. Communication between schools and employers can be improved to support an increase in college classes, certification, and training programs. Also, programs can be tailored toward low-income workers. A “green collar” fund may be established to pay for worker training.

C. Time frame, project costs, and resource needs

The time frame and resource needs for this action depend on the approach to implementing the action, whether the approach involves developing a whole new training program, or incorporating sustainability principles and practices into an existing program. Local governments seeking to develop new training programs should seek opportunities to collaborate with other organizations such as local vocational schools or community colleges.

D. Which local governments implement this action? Which departments within the local government are most likely to have responsibility for this?

This action is relevant to any local government and would most likely be led by an economic development department or workforce development department or committee. Local school departments may also be engaged and it may be beneficial to collaborate with other non-profits or business entities within the community and work with the relevant Regional Economic Development Council. CSC can collaborate with local vocational schools and community colleges to incorporate green training into their curricula.

E. How to obtain points for this action

Points are earned for this Climate Smart Communities (CSC) action by establishing at least one green job or green skills training program or course per year. The program could be a single workshop that re-trains a particular profession for ways to “green” their work, or it could be an ongoing training program that introduces skills, provides hands-on training, and helps link participants to jobs. It might also be a “greening” of a curriculum or technical program within a vocational school or community college. The specifics will be dependent on the unique needs of each community.

F. What to submit

Submit documentation demonstrating that the training program occurred, such as an agenda for the training, any training materials used or provided, number of attendees (if available), and marketing materials. If the program is within an educational institution, a list of any relevant courses and or syllabi for those courses should be provided. Local governments must demonstrate that the program is currently active and that the training course occurred within one year prior to the application date.

All CSC action documentation is available for public viewing after an action is approved. Action submittals should not include any information or documents that are not intended to be viewed by the public.

G. Links to additional resources or best practices

- [Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education \(AASHE\) Curriculum Resources](#)
- [Green Jobs Training Center](#)
- [Sustainable South Bronx Green Collar Workforce Training](#)
- [New York State Regional Economic Development Councils](#)

H. Recertification requirements

The recertification requirements are the same as the initial certification requirements.