



# Texas Foundation for Innovative Communities Newsletter

Greetings and welcome to the inaugural issue of our newsletter. We are excited to be underway in our second year of Wagner-Peyser funding, which was approved by the Governor's Office and the Texas Workforce Commission in August.

## Green Jobs Initiative Underway

There has been a lot of well-meaning enthusiasm around 'green jobs' and 'sustainable development' recently, but that interest has not always translated into substantive information and/or analysis about the underlying industries and technologies that will fundamentally impact our economy in the near future.

Earlier this year TFIC, together with Good Company Associates, launched a Green Jobs Initiative to leverage our combined expertise in energy efficiency, renewable energy, 'smart' energy technology, and sustainable construction to help ensure that the Central Texas workforce will be



ready to respond and react to new demands as technologies that promote sustainable communities are developed and integrated into buildings, homes, and the infrastructure that connects

them (i.e., the built environment).

This initiative was the basis of our proposal for a second year of Wagner-Peyser funding, which was approved by the Governor's Office and the Texas Workforce Commission in August.

Our ultimate goal is to serve as a common link and resource for business interests (employers), educators,

workforce agencies, policymakers, economic development leadership, and other stakeholders interested in these industries.

### What Must Be Accomplished Over the Next 12 Months?

- Assemble and convene a Green Jobs Business Council at least quarterly to advise the region's community colleges, workforce boards, and other stakeholders on industry needs
- Strengthen relationships between the region's community colleges and workforce development boards
- Develop at least three detailed reports on emerging standards and trends in the energy efficiency, renewable energy, and smart energy industries, with a particular focus on Texas markets
- Compile an inventory of clean energy initiatives in Central Texas
- Conduct at least three "Clean Energy Park Forum" workshops to present information on emerging technologies to educators and trainers
- Identify internships and job opportunities for graduates of clean energy programs

*For additional information, please contact the Green Jobs Initiative Project Manager, Chris Winland, at 512-279-0756.*

## INNOVATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



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**GET INVOLVED WITH THE FUTURE OF TEXAS**

## NREL

On September 11, 2009, TFIC hosted a visit to Texas for a second delegation from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), which included Deputy Lab Director Robert McGrath and Associate Lab Director Robert Hawsey.

The delegation met with Texas Comptroller Susan Combs, Deputy Land Commissioner Dwain Rogers, as well as representatives of the Governor's Office, the Texas Legislature, the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO), the Public Utility Commission of Texas, and the region's utilities and universities.

The meetings were part of an ongoing effort by TFIC to create a regional presence of the lab in Central Texas, and we are pleased to report that discussions to develop a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with NREL are currently underway.

## The Green Jobs Business Council

As part of the Green Jobs Initiative, a Green Jobs Business Council has been assembled, composed of leaders in the energy efficiency, renewable energy, and smart energy technology industries in Central Texas.

The Council met for the first time on September 24th in Austin, and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. The next meeting is scheduled for November 5th in Dallas.

### Current Members of the Green Jobs Business Council

- |                                                          |                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| • Aces A/C Supply North                                  | • Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors (PHCC)           |
| • Active Power                                           | • Prudent Energy                                        |
| • Austin Energy                                          | • Sheet Metal Workers International Union               |
| • Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA)         | • Siemens                                               |
| • Beck Group                                             | • Standard Renewable Energy                             |
| • Cisco                                                  | • Strand Brothers                                       |
| • Cpower                                                 | • TDIndustries                                          |
| • CPS Energy                                             | • Techsun Solar                                         |
| • Dell                                                   | • Texas Association of Builders                         |
| • Direct Energy                                          | • Texas Building Trades and Construction Council        |
| • Goetting & Associates                                  | • Texas Energy Service Companies (TESCO)                |
| • GridPoint                                              | • Texas Home Energy Rating Organization (TX HERO)       |
| • HeliVolt                                               | • Texas Renewable Energy Industries Association (TREIA) |
| • Hunt Power                                             | • Trane                                                 |
| • Image Engineering Group                                | • Union Plumbers                                        |
| • International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) | • Wal-Mart                                              |
| • Iron Workers Union                                     | • YPS                                                   |
| • Meridian Solar                                         |                                                         |
| • Oncor (Invited)                                        |                                                         |
| • Pedernales Electric Cooperative                        |                                                         |

## The Green Corridor Consortium

Earlier this year, Austin Community College organized a summit of regional education organizations to begin a process of coordinating "green" training programs offered along the I-35 corridor.

Alan Miller, executive director of the Capitol Area workforce development board, in support of these efforts, worked to bring together a similar collaboration of the workforce agencies serving the region's cities and counties.

TFIC signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with both

Austin Community College and Workforce Solutions—Capitol Area to provide industry guidance and facilitation services to help strengthen the collaboration.

These activities eventually led to the 14 community colleges and workforce boards in the region from San Antonio to Dallas-Ft. Worth metroplex, along with TFIC, agreeing to form the "Green Corridor Consortium", a regional collaboration that aims to help coordinate activities in developing a thriving "green" economy in Central Texas.

### Current Members of the Green Corridor Consortium

#### Community Colleges

- Alamo Community College District
- Austin Community College District
- Central Texas College District
- Dallas County Community College District
- McLennan Community College District
- Temple College
- Texas State Technical Colleges

#### Workforce Development Boards

- Workforce Solutions-Alamo
- Workforce Solutions-Capitol Area
- Workforce Solutions-Central Texas
- Workforce Solutions-Greater Dallas
- Workforce Solutions-Heart of Texas
- Workforce Solutions-North Central Texas
- Workforce Solutions-Rural Capital Area
- Workforce Solutions-Tarrant County

### The Texas Foundation for Innovative Communities

