

North East PA Green Machine Grant Summary

Grant Award: \$900,000 – Time Period: 7/1/10-5/31/11

A North East PA Green Machine grant was awarded to the Lehigh Valley Workforce Investment Board, Inc. (LVWIB) from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The grant is a collaborative approach by four North East PA Workforce Investment Boards--Lehigh Valley Workforce Investment Board, Inc., Lackawanna County Workforce Investment Board, Luzerne/Schuylkill Counties Workforce Investment Board, Inc. and Pocono Counties Workforce Investment Board--to prepare a regional workforce for a green economy. The initiative provides green occupational skills training, career pathways, assessments, workshops, career academies, curriculum development, supportive services and job placement. It builds on established workforce systems, closely integrates with the PA CareerLink® system and builds on partnerships with the private sector, Industry Partnerships, Chambers of Commerce, Business/Education Partnerships, training providers and professional organizations, all leading to employment in green jobs.

The *North East PA Green Machine* includes the following components and deliverables throughout the four Northeast Workforce Investment Areas:

Robust recruitment strategies. Targeted populations include veterans served first as a priority of service, as well as unemployed, low-skilled, underemployed, dislocated workers, individuals on public assistance (i.e., food stamp assistance), high school dropouts, ex-offenders, individuals with disabilities, or individuals with limited English proficiency. Green Information Fairs will be conducted at North East PA CareerLink® one-stop centers. All efforts are data and employer-driven.

Use of PA CareerLink® system to provide case management. The Green Machine will include Commonwealth Workforce Development System enrollment, eligibility screening, assessments and assignment to PA CareerLink® case manager focusing on green occupations. Other green awareness activities include Green Jobs Overview Workshops and Green CareerLinking Academies, as well as referral to basic skills training.

High quality training that leads to an employer-recognized credential, certificate or degree and to a job. Occupational skills training will be within Green Industry Sectors and green occupations across North East Industry Clusters. Training may include on-the-job, pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship, class-size, customized, Individual Training Accounts, basic skills, occupational skills, contextual, work experience, internships and technology-driven training. Career ladders, lattices and pathways will be developed. Job placement opportunities will be identified through Business Service Teams in the PA CareerLink® centers, Industry Partnerships, Chambers and established partnerships within the private sector, education, labor organizations and industry-driven organizations.

Follow-up and retention services, providing individuals the resources necessary to attain economic self-sufficiency. Retention efforts will focus on employer requested interventions and assistance by referrals to additional community services through the PA CareerLinks® and their case management system.

Seamless support services. A lack of basic resources such as transportation, childcare and living expenses can often doom an individual's efforts to attain employer-recognized credentials and to gain employment. Therefore, green case managers will provide referrals to community support services on an as-needed basis.

Deliverables. Scalable model with potential statewide utilization; career ladders, lattices, pathways and green contextual curriculum development; Green CareerLinking Academies; up to 170 customers trained in green jobs; up to 160 customers placed in green jobs; North East PA CareerLink® one-stop centers will have case managers trained in green careers.