

October 17, 2008

9:00am

Welcome

Chip Hughes, NIEHS

Key Note

Raquel Pinderhughes, San Francisco State University

- Barriers to Employment include:
 - Not having a HS degree or GED
 - Out of the labor market for a long time
 - Limited labor market skills
 - Having a criminal record
- Green collar jobs are manual labor jobs that lead to improvements in environmental quality
- Pinderhughes has identified 22 green collar job sectors
- Criminals that are released and stay in the labor market for 1 year, their recidivism rate drops by 30%; 2 years in the labor market, it rises to 50%

Research Findings:

- Green collar jobs can lead to pathways out of poverty
- Surveyed San Francisco people that have barriers to employment, and 97% were interested in green collar jobs

Pinderhughes Green Collar Job Training & Placement Model

- Target Population: 18-35 year old men and women with barriers to employment
- Training: 3-6 month training that utilizes both classroom and on-the-job training
- Partners: Job training programs, green employers, city and county government

Aspects of the model:

- Soft skills training (hardest piece of the program)
- Hard skills training
- Financial literacy
- Environmental literacy
- Internship with case management services
- Green Business Council

- In some ways it is the same training program, in other ways it is not
- Trade apprenticeship programs do not serve the needs of these candidates
- Pindershughes study can be found at: <http://www.bss.sfsu.edu/raquelrp>
- Trash pickup can be reconstituted as recycling, which will lead into other sectors of the economy
- Best training programs in construction have done a great job connecting with the trade unions

10:00am

Plenary 4: Green Remediation and Construction

Moderator: Tim Fields, National Clearinghouse/MDB, Inc.

Jim Platner, CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training

BCTD Energy Statement

- Humans cause of global warming
- Improve efficiency and conservation
- Modernization of existing power plants first
- Diverse technologies: clean coal, nuclear, renewable
- Improve energy infrastructure & oil refinery capacity
- CO2 cap & trade to reduce emissions by mid-century
- Similar requirements in China & India
- Access US Oil & Gas with environmental restoration
- Green Buildings – green construction & worker training
- Davis Bacon wages for contracts with federal support

Draft OSHA Project Scoring

- Emphasis on pre-project planning
- Design for safety/constructability
- Scheduling & no stacking of subs
- Pre-qualify safer contractors/subs
- Site traffic and materials flow plan
- Workforce sustainability plan (to be added)
- Safety program implementation

Construction Safety Score

- Project Team (6.6 pts)
- Safety & Health in Contracts (5.5 pts)
- Safety & Health Professionals (8.1 pts)
- Safety Commitment (4.3 pts)
- Safety Accountability & performance Measurement (8 pts)

- Industrial Hygiene Practices
- Drug & Alcohol Program
- Accident Investigation & Reporting
- Employee Involvement

Training and Outreach

- Train LEED Auditors with Activist Perspectives
- Participate in local development planning
- Increase worker/community awareness

Research & Policy Issues

- Expanding Green: Social Responsibility/Sustainability
- Workforce Surge Capacity & Sustainability
- Life-Cycle: Technology, Task & Skill Assessments
- Safety Impacts of CO2 Reduction & Green Building
- Verification/Validation of LEED Process

Gary Gustafson, Laborers AGC Training Fund Green Construction

Laborers AGC is the training arm of LIUNA

Two types of green:

- Green construction – building the new green economy (next energy sources)
- Green in construction – how to implement green into current construction
- Many construction companies are not interested in green employees, they want employees who understand green concepts
- Training typically occurs between projects or when they are out of work – a “green” course would not be attractive to these candidates
- Developed an introduction to green course – works to change the mindset of workers
- Older workers are resistant to learning
- Looked at teaching workers how to recycle – change the old adage of “when in doubt throw it out”
- There is tremendous waste in constructing a building

Carolos Pachon, EPA Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI)

Green Remediation

The practice of considering all environmental effects of a cleanup during each phase of the process, and incorporating strategies to maximize net environmental benefit of the cleanup

Focus is on remedy implementation vs. remedy selection

Core Elements: Land and Ecosystems

- Plan for minimizing soil and habitat disturbance, and recycle topsoil where possible
- Identify and clear site of sensitive/endangered species
- Pursue revegetation with native species and integration with local habitats
- Reduce noise and lighting disturbance

Core Elements: Long-Term Stewardship

- Reduced emission of CO₂, methane, and other greenhouse gases
- Integrate remedial decisions with reuse decisions
- Renewable energy systems for long-term cleanup and future economic benefit
- Leverage of remedy infrastructure for reuse

Core Elements: Energy Requirements

- Energy efficient equipment operating at peak performance
- Periodic evaluation and optimization of equipment with high energy demand
- Renewable energy systems to replace or offset grid electricity
- Managed demand to leverage low peak capacity and rates

- EPA has a series of intern and external tools on green remediation

Green Remediation: A Workers' Perspective

- Worker health and safety remain the top priority, along with remedy protectiveness
- We are not seeing "GR" technologies, we're seeing GR best practices
- Best practices often ID'd on the ground, at the site level – importance of worker training and empowerment
- Companies with strong sustainability principles often have robust environmental management systems (EMS) systems and safety health and environmental (SHE) policies

Question

How can certifying in LEED push a social justice system?

Answer

If you are outside the system, it is difficult to influence it

Question

Is there a training program to alert people about how dangerous PVC is?

Answer

There are other contaminants also

LEEDs looks at planning issues too

11:15am

Summary Panel: Insights and Future Directions

Moderator: Donald Elisburg, National Clearinghouse

How does this world of green jobs connect with the new cause of the green environment?

Craig Slatin, University of Massachusetts Lowell

Environmental Justice and Good/Green Jobs

- Focus on looking at whether the green economy will look different than the polluting economy
- Process of finding a way to create social and economic transformation along with the greening
- Making green jobs and environmental justice initiative, we have to help WETP to push the effort

Gary Gustafson, Laborers – AGC

Green Remediation/Green Construction

- Green is still being defined – we need to be at the table during these discussions
- Worker health and safety is sometimes not being considered
- We must remember the lessons learned the past 3 days and take those back with us

Paul Renner, Labor Institute

Green Chemistry

- Green Chemistry is the process of modifying substances on the molecular level
- Exciting because it has the possibility to become real because of REACH