

EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response Workforce Development and Job Training Program



Presented by:
The Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization

Purpose of the Program



Preparing unemployed local residents from neighborhoods impacted by hazardous and solid waste sites for sustainable employment in the environmental field.

- The transition from an industrially-based economy presents communities with environmental challenges and new economic opportunities.
- The shift left behind thousands of abandoned manufacturing and other properties known as brownfields,
- Also effected are other sites with hazardous substances and/or solid waste issues.
- By providing environmental cleanup, job training programs funded through EPA grants spur economic redevelopment, and create qualified environmental technicians to meet the current demand for workers.

Job Training Program History



- In the late 1990s, EPA heard from local stakeholders that there was potential value in a program that would train local residents of communities for environmental careers.
- The first seeds of Brownfields Job Training emerged in the early 1990s.
- In 1998, EPA initiated the Brownfields Job Training Program.

Expansion of the Program in 2011



- In 2010, the Brownfields Program headed an effort to more closely collaborate on workforce development and job training with other Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response programs, including:
 - ◆ Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery (ORCR)
 - ◆ Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI)
 - ◆ Office of Underground Storage Tanks (OUST)
 - ◆ Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse (FFRRO)
 - ◆ Center for Program Analysis (CPA)
 - ◆ Innovations, Communication, and Partnerships Office (IPCO)
 - ◆ Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

Expansion of the Program in 2011



- The Brownfields Job Training Program now includes other hazardous and solid waste training within these partner programs, beyond the scope of brownfields
- As a result, the program has been renamed to the “Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant Program”
- Request for proposals to be issued in October 2010

New Features of the Expanded Program



- In FY11, applicants may now apply to deliver additional training in one or more of the following areas:
 - ◆ Solid waste related training (e.g., household and industrial recycling management and collection, operators of material recovery facility and/or recycling centers, electronics and household hazardous waste collection and recycling program operators)
 - ◆ Leaking underground storage tank prevention removal
 - ◆ Oil spill response and cleanup
 - ◆ Construction and demolition debris collection, management, and recycling
 - ◆ Training associated with landfill closure and waste minimization efforts
 - ◆ Disaster site worker and first responder training
 - ◆ Superfund and Federal Facility cleanup contractor specific training and innovative and alternative (i.e., “green”) treatment technologies

Types of Training Provided



Core Curriculum

- All environmental workforce development and job training program curricula **must** include:
 - 40-hour Occupational Safety And Health Administration (OSHA) Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) training;
 - Lead renovation, repair, and painting (RRP) certification; and
 - Some degree of supplemental training in *each* of the following three areas:
 - Innovative and alternative treatment technologies (e.g., site preparation for solar installation training, phytoremediation, stormwater management)
 - Leaking underground storage tank prevention; and
 - Training related to solid waste management, assessment, and/or cleanup (e.g., construction and demolition debris recycling, landfill remediation and capping, recycling center operator training, etc.).

Types of Training Provided: Preparation for “Green” Jobs



● EPA encourages applicants to supplement their core curriculums with additional, specialized courses in environmentally sustainable training, such as:

- ◆ Mold Remediation
- ◆ Phytoremediation
- ◆ Hazardous Substance Transportation
- ◆ Disaster Site Worker
- ◆ Vapor Intrusion
- ◆ Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning (HVAC), including Freon Extraction
- ◆ Energy-Efficient Construction
- ◆ Ecological Restoration, Landscaping
- ◆ Debris Recycling

A Growing Emphasis on Renewable Energy: Richmond, California



A 2009 Brownfields grant awarded to Richmond enhanced the city's "RichmondBUILD" Training and Job Placement Program

RichmondBUILD's Environmental Job Training curriculum is considered exemplary in the areas of "green" training and renewable energy—featuring courses in:

- ✓ Eco Literacy
- ✓ Energy efficiency and energy-efficient construction methods
- ✓ Solar panel installation training

- The program has a 91% job placement rate
- Graduates earn an average of \$18.33/hr
- Partners include RE organizations such as:
 - Solar Richmond
 - The Solar Living Institute
 - The Rising Sun Energy Center
 - GRID Alternatives



Photo courtesy RichmondWorks

Federal Partnerships



- NIEHS – long time partner, collaboration on expanding but not duplicating efforts.
- DOL – MOU since 1996 – information on EPA BF training programs to State and local Workforce Development Boards (WIBS)
- EDA – linking economic development efforts with brownfields cleanup and redevelopment jobs
- DOT – transportation funding with bf redevelopment
- HUD – housing linkages with sustainable development
- USDA – urban gardens

Program Contact Information



- For more information on EPA's Job Training Program, please visit: www.epa.gov/brownfields
- BF11 Conference – Philadelphia, April 3-5
Registration now open www.brownfields2011.org