



## State Energy Sector Partnership Update October 20, 2010

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In January 2010, the U.S. Department of Labor announced that the Alaska State Energy Sector Partnership (ASESP) and Training Grant application was awarded in the amount of \$3,600,000 under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) with a starting date of January 29, 2010. The grant proposes to train over 700 workers over the next three years to increase the supply of workers with energy-efficiency skills to support energy efficient end user technology and the hydroelectric, wind turbine, geothermal, and biomass industries. The grant application identifies the ASESP to serve as the steering committee throughout the life of the grant to participate in the planning, support, and implementation of the State's energy sector strategy. The application further stated that the AWIB will lead the ASESP and serve as the managing partner responsible for coordination and management of the partnership, including overall planning, implementation, oversight, and technical assistance of the ASESP operations and project teams.

On April 14, 2010 a meeting of the ASESP was held in Anchorage to review the strategic planning process, refine the project implementation timeline, and discuss the resource allocation and grant distribution process. The ASESP agreed to form two committees assigned to meet at least monthly. One committee, the Sector Plan Committee, was assigned to work on further development of the State Energy Sector Workforce Development Plan including a long-term strategy for sustainability. A second committee, the Grant Process Committee, was assigned to review resource allocation among the five green energy technologies and a process for training grant distribution. Both committees were assigned to report back to the full ASESP, which meets on a quarterly basis.

On August 6, 2010 the ASESP Grant Review Process Committee met to review the 4 project operator proposals. These proposals were reviewed to ensure they meet the AWIB's needs and outcomes. These 'shovel ready' projects have training programs in place to begin projects immediately. The 4 original proposal requests were:

- Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) for \$449,978 – Concurred with funding, but further negotiations with the DOLWD were needed on grant proposal, its term, and its relationship to AVTEC proposal.
  - This proposal is to fund training by AVTEC for rural power plant and bulk fuel operators.
- Alaska Apprenticeship Training Coordinators Association (AATCA) \$650,000 – Concurred
  - This proposal is for construction skills training 500 individuals in three basic sectors (plumbers & pipefitters, sheet metal workers, electricians).
- AVTEC \$650,000 – Concurred with funding, but further negotiations were needed with the DOLWD on grant proposal and its relationship to AEA proposal.
  - The proposal was to fund an instructor, and to train 176 participants in wind turbine technician.
- Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) \$950,000
  - This proposal was withdrawn as AHFC, due to their workload, project management demands, and requirements of the grant. AHFC will continue to work with contractors and training providers. AHFC would like to remain a partner to advise the ASESP and AWIB on training providers for Alaska building science, weatherization, residential, and commercial building retrofit technologies.



On August 10, 2010 the AWIB Executive Committee approved up to \$1.1 million for the ASESP training grants.

On October 6, 2010, an ASESP meeting was held to receive an update from the DOLWD on the ASESP training grants through project operator agreements and review the proposed RFP process and timeline. The training grants will increase the supply of workers with energy-efficiency skills to support energy efficient end user technology and the hydroelectric, wind turbine, geothermal, and biomass industries in Alaska. The ASESP Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency Workforce Development Plan was also reviewed by the AWIB Executive Committee on October 12, 2010 with a recommendation to approve and forward to the AWIB for review at the October meeting.

On October 13, 2010 the ASESP Grant Process Committee met to review the proposed RFP process for training grants related to the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors with a target application period to begin on October 26, 2010. An update on the RFP process and training grants to date will be provided to the AWIB at the October board meeting in Fairbanks.