



Alaska State Energy Sector Partnership Training Grant

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.

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 formed 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 July 14, 2010, a full ASESP meeting was held and both the Sector Plan and Grant Process Committee gave an update on their progress to date on their assignments. The Sector Plan was reviewed in detail and input received from the ASESP, and forwarded to the AWIB for their review and approval at the October AWIB meeting.

In October of 2010 the Grant Process Committee reviewed and approved project operator agreements from AVTEC, Alaska Energy Authority (AEA), and the Alaska Apprenticeship Training Coordinators Association (AATCA). AVTEC will begin training wind technicians by the Spring of 2011 as well as Industrial Electrician, Power Plant Operator (wind), Advanced Power Plant Operator (wind), and Hydro Plant Operator. The Alaska Energy Authority began training participants in Bulk Fuel Operations and Maintenance and will begin a Power Plant Operator class with a new Wind Technician component. The AATCA is training apprentices and journeyman in energy efficiency construction trades skills, including Green Mechanical Systems Awareness Training and Introduction to Alternative Energy Systems for wind and hydroelectric power generation.

On October 25, 2010 the AWIB passed Resolution No. 10-04 adopted and recommended the Alaska State Energy Sector Renewable Energy Sector Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency Workforce Development Plan. On October 27, 2010 the ASESP Request Grant Application (RGA) period was opened seeking grant applications for training in RE/EE industries, including hydroelectric, wind turbine, biomass, geothermal, and weatherization.

In January 2011 a Project Operator Agreement was submitted by Alaska Works Partnership in partnership with the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation for weatherization training. On January 18, 2011 four applications were received for competitive grants. Grant applications were received from SAVEC, United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters, AVTEC, and Rural Cap. The grant reviews were conducted on February 10, 2011 and the Division of Business Partnerships will be providing an update on the status of these training grants at the February AWIB meeting.

The most current Alaska State Energy Sector Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency Workforce Development Plan Executive Summary, Overview, and Implementation Plan are attached for your review.