

No Worker Left Behind, Year Two: The Green Jobs Initiative



What is the Green Jobs Initiative?

In year two of No Worker Left Behind (NWLB), Governor Granholm launched the Green Jobs Initiative, a \$6 million investment designed to:

- ❖ Increase the number of green industries and businesses in Michigan.
- ❖ Develop green education and training programs, spurring the growth of Michigan's green economy.
- ❖ Invest in worker education and training to prepare our workers for green jobs.
- ❖ Support urban renewal by creating green jobs and training opportunities for a diverse mix of people.

What jobs are considered green jobs?

As a starting point, the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth (DELEG) defines "green jobs" as jobs created in three emerging sectors of Michigan's economy. These green sectors include:

- ❖ **Alternative Energy Production and Efficiency**, which includes targeting jobs in wind energy; bio-fuels and bio-materials; solar and energy storage; energy efficiency; and advanced technology vehicles.
- ❖ **Green Building Construction and Retrofitting**, which includes jobs in energy efficient building, construction, deconstruction and retrofits; energy efficiency assessment serving the residential, commercial, or industrial sectors; materials recycling and reuse; architecture and design; land use/site analysis; building materials; and construction/rehab.
- ❖ **Agriculture and Natural Resource Conservation**, which includes jobs in food systems (production and distribution); green chemistry; water quality; forest, land, and water management; and Brownfield redevelopment

How will Michigan design and implement training programs for green jobs?

- ❖ **Convene Green Sector Skills Alliances** -- Michigan will invest \$1.5 million to create Green Sector Skills Alliances -- alliances of business, labor, government and educational leaders who share interest and expertise in a specific green sector of Michigan's economy. In partnership with DELEG, the alliances will bring together the resources and expertise to develop specific training programs for jobs in these green industries.
- ❖ **Build Capacity to Provide Green Jobs Training** -- Michigan will invest \$1.5 million to help community colleges, universities, and training facilities build their capacity to develop and provide training for green jobs.
- ❖ **Invest in Tuition for Green Jobs Training** --Through the No Worker Left Behind Initiative, Michigan will provide \$3 million in tuition support for eligible individuals pursuing approved green jobs training programs at Michigan colleges and universities.

How will the Green Jobs Initiative promote ongoing communication and learning about Michigan's green economy and training for green jobs?

As part of the Green Jobs Initiative, DELEG will:

- ❖ **Conduct Ongoing Labor Market Research** -- DELEG will analyze current and projected job growth, skill requirements, wages and benefits in Michigan's green economy. This research, combined with the research and planning of the Green Sector Skills Alliances, will help shape Michigan's investment in education and training programs for green jobs.
- ❖ **Convene a Green Jobs Conference** – May 11, 2009, DELEG will host a green jobs conference, focusing on Michigan's workforce development opportunities through the Green Jobs Initiative. It will bring together approximately 1,000 business, education and training, labor, environmental, community- and faith-based, and policy advocacy partners and stakeholders who are currently working on various facets of nurturing a green economy and talent base in Michigan.
- ❖ **Create an Information Clearinghouse** – The Green Jobs website – www.michigan.gov/greenjobs -- will be the primary source of information on the Green Jobs Initiative, with content on internships and jobs, education and training opportunities, and collaborative partnerships. Through the website, we will collect information from employers on their current and future training needs. DELEG staff will work with these employers to make sure Green Jobs Initiative training programs meet their needs.