

STCC Chosen to Lead \$1.875 Million Statewide Grant Initiative:  
Mass. Green Energy Education Network to Prepare Skilled Green  
Collar Workforce

STCC has been selected by the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center to lead a \$1.875 million, three-year statewide grant program to create the Massachusetts Green Energy Education Network Institute (MassGREEN.) A partnership among all 15 Massachusetts community colleges, with industry, employers, nonprofit agencies and government entities will work to develop and deliver workforce training in energy efficiency and building sciences.

The grant, funded through the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, in collaboration with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, was announced yesterday by Governor Deval Patrick. The project will focus on developing curriculum and offering education through the community colleges, intended to reduce the carbon footprint of residential structures. Instruction will be offered to establish a skilled workforce in weatherizing current homes, and constructing new homes in ways to make them more energy efficient.

According to the request for proposals from the Clean Energy Center, the grant is intended to "expand the reach of existing energy efficiency efforts, to enable rapid growth in the industry and prompt delivery of energy savings to all households in the Commonwealth." Additionally, the project will "establish training programs that will teach methods of saving energy in all kinds of buildings, with an emphasis on achieving deeper and deeper savings in each building treated over time, so that in short order we will be achieving 50% energy use reductions in treated buildings."

Ira H. Rubenzahl, President of STCC, said, "I'm excited that Springfield Technical Community College has been chosen to lead MassGREEN, a new center that will train individuals for the growing residential energy field. We will develop a skilled workforce to promote energy efficiency and independence in Massachusetts. This enterprise depends on a partnership with our sister community colleges as well as labor and business groups."

Two audiences will be assisted through this training: building contractors and unemployed tradespeople who need new green building skills; and people who need training to be able to perform the work for the contractors. Several statewide and regional partners, including vocational-technical schools, the community colleges, one-stop career centers, and programs such as YouthBuild, will be involved in preparing the unskilled potential workers with general education and workplace readiness skills, to help them be successful in energy efficiency training.

Additional curriculum would help those who join the industry at the entry level to be able to advance.

The community colleges are divided into seven regional training centers: a lead institution and geographic partners. Additionally, the MassGREEN Team includes the University of Massachusetts Amherst, National Grid, Western Mass. Electric Company, Conservation Services Group, Center for Ecological Technology, the Mass. Green Jobs Coalition, the Mass. YouthBuild Coalition, the Mass. Community Action Programs, the New England Regional Council of Carpenters, the Boston Carpenters Apprenticeship and Training Fund, IBEW Local 7, Strategic Energy Systems, Clean Energy Tech Schools Task Force, Franklin/Hampshire Regional Employment Board, Hampden County Regional Employment Board, and Springfield Partners Inc.

Lead institutions for the seven regional training centers are Roxbury, Bristol, North Shore, Greenfield, Springfield Technical, Quinsigamond, and Berkshire community colleges. In this area, Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner is partnered with Greenfield Community College, and Holyoke Community College will partner with STCC.

The grant project will be up and running almost immediately; some activities are already in process, and the project will officially begin in August. The MassGREEN Team is scheduled to begin offering pilot training programs at three or more sites within the first six months of the three-year program.