



Northeast Energy Efficiency Workforce Development Forum

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NESCAUM AND EPA CO-SPONSOR REGIONAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FORUM

[Boston, MA] – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) are co-sponsoring a forum on Regional Energy Efficiency Workforce Development for the Northeast. The forum will take place at the Eastern Connecticut State University in Willimantic, CT on March 26, 2009. NESCAUM is an organization whose membership includes the environmental agencies in the Northeast states from Maine to New Jersey, and whose purpose is to provide scientific, technical, analytical, and policy support to the air quality, climate, and energy programs of the eight Northeast states.

The Northeast is a national leader in energy efficiency (EE), spending nearly \$1B each year on EE programs that provide substantial environmental, energy, and economic benefits to the region. With the revenues from the recent Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative auctions as well as the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*, billions of dollars are available for EE retrofits, weatherization, green schools, and training for “green jobs,” especially in low-income communities. President Obama has identified EE as a centerpiece of the economic stimulus package, which is designed to reinvigorate our economy while providing energy security.

In order to expand existing EE programs and implement new ones, the region needs a workforce that is sufficiently prepared, in size and skill for rapid, efficient, and cost-effective deployment. The Forum will bring together members of state environmental, energy, public utility, and economic development agencies, utilities, energy service companies, experts from community colleges and vocational/technical schools, and environmental justice advocates to identify the actions we need to take as a Region to prepare the best EE workforce for the Northeast. “A well-trained energy efficiency workforce is essential for these programs to generate the greatest benefits to the region’s air quality and climate goals at the lowest cost while increasing energy reliability,” stated Michelle Manion, NESCAUM’s Climate and Energy Program Director.

“We’re pleased to assist NESCAUM with this year’s forum. Our gift helps bring together the right team to advance energy efficiency programs that will benefit our customers and help safeguard our global environment for future generations,” said Tim Stout, vice president, Energy

Efficiency, for National Grid in the U.S. “This forum is a tangible action of what can be achieved when we all pull together.” National Grid is underwriting travel expenses which will enable state employees to attend the forum.

Featured speakers at the forum will include Dan Sosland, Executive Director of Environment Northeast, and Kevin Doyle, Co-Chair of the New England Clean Energy Council’s Workforce Development Committee. Senator Bernie Sanders (VT), who is chairing a new green jobs subcommittee in the US Senate, will provide remarks via videoconference. The Eastern Connecticut State University’s Institute for Sustainable Energy will actively participate in the forum.

“This forum will enhance the effectiveness of the Economic Stimulus funds in the Northeast and help to transform our economy through environmental solutions. We look forward to valuable collaborations between the energy, environmental and education sectors that will be a role model for the rest of the country and will help to create a green jobs network,” stated Ira Leighton, Acting Regional Administrator, EPA New England.

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