



## **BACKGROUND ON THE NORTH STATE RENEWABLE ENERGY INITIATIVE**

### **About the California Green Innovation Challenge Grants**

On May 25, 2010 the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA), California Workforce Investment Board (CWIB) and the Employment Development Department (EDD) issued a Solicitation for Proposal for five Challenge Grants of up to \$4 million each to develop and implement new workforce training strategies that address the need for skilled workers in the green economy. Applications were due June 14, 2010.

The intent of the *Green Innovation Challenge Solicitation* is to encourage **business-led partnerships** to develop creative methods of increasing current and future employment in the statewide specialties within the green economy. The Challenge Grant is also to develop partnerships and infrastructure flexible enough to support employment growth for up to 10 years.

It is expected that business-led workforce and education partnerships would focus on activities such as:

- Target a specific clean technology industry (listed in solicitation) and identify the workforce needs.
- Build upon existing industry-focused partnerships of businesses, training providers, community organizations, and other key stakeholders around the targeted industry.
- Address the immediate and long-term workforce needs of businesses and the training, employment, and career advancement needs of workers.
- Bolster economic competitiveness by aligning educational, economic, and workforce development planning and leveraging of resources.
- Promote systematic change that supports innovation and achieves ongoing benefits for industries, workers and communities.

## **About the NoRTEC Collaborative Application**

The region targeted for this initiative is the eleven (11) **rural** northern California counties which comprise the Northern Rural Training & Employment Consortium (NoRTEC) service area and the Humboldt Workforce Development region.

The region began working on a renewable energy strategy in 2008-09, conducting studies and research<sup>1</sup> on the potential for generation, opportunities for new business formation and job creation – estimating over ten years 4,008 jobs and an economic impact of \$511.9 million in spending and \$285.8 million in income.

In 2010 the region furthered the efforts of the renewable energy initiative by working with Industry Advisors to identify specific needs of the industry which resulted in receiving a California Energy Commission and California Workforce Investment Board Clean Energy Workforce Training Program grant and a federal Department of Labor Pathways Out of Poverty grant.

For the Challenge Grant, the **North State Renewable Energy Consortium (NSREC)** was conceptualized as a public-private partnership consisting of industry (solar manufacturing, component manufacturing, installers, utilities and other energy producers), university commercialization, education, workforce development, venture capital network, communities, technical assistance and economic development organizations including statewide industry associations.

## **Vision**

1. Accelerate the widespread adoption, deployment, and job creation opportunities of renewable energy solutions by driving market opportunities;
2. Commercialize renewable energy technologies (research, testing and monitoring); and
3. Train a workforce to meet the needs of the industry – instituting the Renewable Energy Career Pathways Model in the North State.



<sup>1</sup>Renewable Electricity Production in Upstate California; Present, Future Resource Use and Its Economic Impact. January 2009. Center for Economic Development, Dr. David Gallo.



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The project goal is to create systematic change by building the needed infrastructure and stimulating the renewable energy sector. The North State Renewable Energy Initiative application focused on three objectives:

- Market Development:** Accelerate adoption and deployment of renewable energy, remove barriers, streamline installation and encourage policies to support renewable energy.
- Workforce Training:** Partnership with North Far North Regional Consortium (Community Colleges) and the Western Electrical Contractors Association to institute Department of Labor Renewable Energy Career Pathways Model to leverage existing clean energy workforce training with higher level of competency training. Partner with the Energy Efficiency Training Academy to increase enrollment and training, and partner with Northwest Lineman College on Smart Meter/Smart Grid training.
- Technology Commercialization:** Collaborate with SolarTech Association, Silicon Valley and California State University Chico *Sustainable Manufacturing Program* for research, testing, monitoring and commercialization services. Collaborate with Golden Capital Network and Wavepoint Ventures for access to private venture equity funds as well as creating a brand for the North State as a hub for renewable energy manufacturing utilizing the CleanTech Innovation Center and Campus and the Innovation Lab as regional hubs.

Many more partners will be added as the project is implemented. Initial partners include:

| Industry Advisors   | Private Venture & Equity   | Cleantech Innovation Center and Campus  |
|---|--|---|
| Array Converter<br><i>Austin Consulting</i><br>Alternative Energy Systems, Inc<br><i>Chico Electric</i><br>Fafco<br><i>Helio Energy Solutions</i><br>Level II Industries<br><i>Opel Solar</i><br>RHA<br><i>Spire Manufacturing</i><br>SolarTech Association<br><i>Western Electrical Contractors Association</i><br>Utilities<br><i>WalMart Distribution Center</i> | <i>World Bridge</i><br>Wavepoint Ventures<br><i>Five Star Bank</i><br>SCALE<br><i>Private Equity Partners</i>  | City of Oroville<br><i>Northwest Lineman College</i><br>Energy Efficiency Training Academy<br><i>ConSol</i><br>Sky WindPower Corporation<br><i>Living Lab</i><br>Tracy Realty |
| Innovation Lab  | Education & Workforce Development  | Economic Development  |
| <i>Guillon Brouhard Real Estate</i><br>City of Chico<br><i>CSU Sustainable Manufacturing Program</i><br>North Valley LEAN<br><i>Golden Capital Network</i>  | Butte College and the North Far North Regional Consortium<br><i>CSU, Chico, College of Engineering</i><br>NoRTEC & One-Stop Network<br><i>Humboldt Workforce Development</i> | <i>3Core</i><br>Morrison Grant<br><i>US Department of Agriculture, Rural Development</i>  |



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**Two Year Performance Objectives:**

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Training/Education/ Job Impact: | 356 Enrolled, 83% Placement Rate   |
| Business Impact:                | 5 testing, monitoring & new technology commercialization projects; 5 new tech start-ups, 5 expansions, and \$3.5 million in business funding.  |
| Infrastructure & Market:        | Create focused effort at all levels on the initiative and opportunity, build stronger collaborations, and develop policies and strategies to accelerate renewable energy adoption and leverage assets and resources. |

**North State Renewable Energy Consortium’s (NSREC) ability to deliver its mission stems from the strength of its stakeholder community:**

- An industry-led consortium involving over 42 companies and organizations dedicated to the initiative;
- Collaborative partnership with SolarTech, the leading statewide industry association for the Solar Industry to share findings, implementation strategies and connection to businesses;
- CleanTech Innovation Center (CIC), an energy training and testing campus;
- Innovation lab and incubator, university-based sustainable manufacturing program, solar manufacturing training and a “capital” lab (private venture equity);
- Proposed new solar technology testing and monitoring projects – converter, concentrated PV, PV-Thermal and composite material racking;
- A team of highly esteemed University faculty in Professional Science and Sustainable Manufacturing to accelerate testing and monitoring;
- Partnerships with research partners, major companies and sources of capital for end-to-end commercialization;
- Energy career pathways training with North Far North Regional Consortium (community colleges), Northwest Lineman College, Western Electrical Contractors Association, Solar Energy Power Association (SEPA) SolarTech and others;
- Collaboration, support and direction provided by NoRTEC, an 11-county Joint Powers Authority.



## ***About Northern Rural Training & Employment Consortium (NoRTEC)***

The Northern Rural Training and Employment Consortium (NoRTEC) covers eleven rural counties in Northern California – Butte, Del Norte, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity – through its One-Stop workforce delivery network:

1. Private Industry Council of Butte and Nevada Counties One-Stop
2. Job Training Center of Tehama County
3. Shasta SMART Resource Center (Shasta and Trinity Counties)
4. Alliance for Workforce Development (Lassen, Modoc, Plumas and Sierra Counties)
5. Siskiyou County Workforce Connection
6. Rural Human Resources (Del Norte County)

This eleven-county area covers about 39,388 square miles, or a little over 25 percent of California's geographic area (155,959 square miles).

NoRTEC is a Joint Powers Authority operating under the guidance of two boards. The Workforce Investment Board (WIB) represents the private and public service sectors, a majority of the membership comes from the private sector. The Governing Board is comprised of one member from each of the eleven county Boards of Supervisors.

NoRTEC is critical to the North State in delivering the Workforce Investment Act programs that are provided to the state through the Department of Labor (DOL) Employment and Training Administration and the State of California Labor Agency, in coordination with the Employment Development Department and the State Workforce Investment Board.

### Contact:

Stewart Knox, Executive Director  
Northern Rural Training & Employment Consortium  
530-892-9600  
[sknox@ncen.org](mailto:sknox@ncen.org)