



Developing a Well-Trained, Skilled “Green” Workforce is Key for Colorado’s Efforts to Become a Green Economy Leader According to New CPE Report

Denver, CO - Colorado is poised to be a national leader in the emerging “green economy” but must do more to develop a homegrown workforce with the skills that will be needed as new industries are created and existing businesses change to meet demand, according to a report released today by the Center for Policy Entrepreneurship (CPE).

“Governor Ritter and other state leaders have done a great job positioning Colorado at the forefront of the green economy,” said Spiros Protopsaltis, CPE president. “But in order to ensure that our state realizes and captures the full benefits of green economic development we must also aggressively foster job training through a comprehensive green workforce development plan that will create a pool of well-prepared local workers for the jobs of the future.”

Specifically, the “*Developing Colorado’s Green Collar Workforce*” report recommends that Colorado:

- **Create a renewable energy curriculum supervisor** to coordinate classes, certifications and degrees at public schools, community colleges, universities and vocational training centers, thereby ensuring that students are being taught the skills businesses need;
- **Create a Green Jobs Corps** aimed at increasing the number of skilled workers in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors. The Green Jobs Corps should focus its efforts on providing pathways out of poverty for groups such as low-income youth, veterans and displaced/under-employed workers;
- **Develop One-Stop Training Centers** that will provide certification in specific skills needed by green businesses; and,
- **Develop funding mechanisms** to foster community and regional workforce development that take advantage of financing opportunities provided under the Clean Energy Fund.

The report also details current efforts in Colorado, national programs and steps that other states are taking to build their green workforces.

"Lately, green collar job development has received a lot of national attention," said Matt Sundeen, CPE director of policy and research. "This report documents other efforts to improve green job training and provides Colorado lawmakers with information about the best practices used in other states."

The report is available at www.c-pe.org

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About the Center for Policy Entrepreneurship

The Center for Policy Entrepreneurship (CPE) is a private, non-profit public policy research and advocacy organization dedicated to identifying, developing and bringing to life creative and effective solutions to critical challenges. In the spirit of entrepreneurship, CPE looks at issues from all angles to find and create innovative public policy that provides measurable benefits to the public.