

**California Clean Energy Workforce Training Program SFP PY 2009-10**  
**Clean Energy Summit–West Sacramento**  
**Questions and Answers**  
**(Posted 08/18/09)**

The questions and answers listed below were taken from the Clean Energy Summit on August 10 (West Sacramento) and were a dialogue between the audience and the panel. Please note this is the actual transcript from the Summit and is very conversational in nature.

**Applicant Eligibility**

**1. Can an agency apply for more than one section? It appears that we were given conflicting information?**

An applicant can apply for each of the three categories, one application under each category.

**2. Can a lead agency on one application (Category 1 or 2) also be a collaborating partner/sub-awardee on another application?**

Yes, you can be a partner on as many applications as you would like.

**Bonus Points**

**1. There are bonus points for applications who partner with a collaboration of local governments; can you please give an example of what you mean?**

Preference points will be given to those applicants that tie their program to a coalition of local governments or a local government that already has a comprehensive retrofit program in place or has a clean energy sector strategy already in place. Those sector strategies or comprehensive retrofit programs are job creation activities, which is why workforce development activities should be tied to them.

**Certificate Training**

**1. What are the correct certifications needed for commercial building auditors? Are any of the certification providers on the ETP list?**

The certified agencies and certifications provided in the SFP are examples. The ones highlighted are the ones that we felt provided some of the most comprehensive, robust and accountable programs nationally and in California. If there is another certifying organization that offers an industry-approved certification to individuals, with a similar curriculum, then that would also be acceptable.

Following are additional examples of commercial building auditing designations; however, this is not an exhaustive list. At present, ETP is not funding any training programs for these certifications.

Sustainable Development Professional, Association of Energy Engineers Certified Commissioning Professional, Building Commission Association Certified Energy

Auditor, Association of Energy Engineers Commercial Energy Auditor, Energy Audit Institute.

**2. For Category 1a, is the certified green building professional training required to be based on Build It Green, or can it be another industry-identified certificate for green building professionals?**

The certified agencies and certifications provided in the SFP are examples. The ones highlighted are the ones that we felt provided some of the most comprehensive, robust and accountable programs nationally and in California. If there is another certifying organization that offers an industry-approved certification to individuals, with a similar curriculum, then that would also be acceptable.

**3. Currently there is no entry level certification for building analyst. If there is no industry recognized certification for that level then what would prove that we are training at the level?**

Looks like you are looking to apply for category 2a or pre apprenticeship. We are not looking for an industry certified certification there or you folks would be looking for more of a certificate of completion from your program. [8/31/09]

**4. Does the certified green building professional requirement apply to any applicant for all training that is residential focused? It would have to include getting certified by Build-It Green or another appropriate organization. So if someone went through a community college curriculum they would have to get that certification at the end of the day from the certification body?**

They would have to sit for certification, whether or not they pass the test would be up to the individual and their ability to test. The goal here is for the individual to go for certification. [8/31/09]

**5. Would it be required that they actually go and take certification tests?**

Yes. [8/31/09]

**General**

**1. Is nuclear energy an option for these funds?**

No.

**2. How will the need for water for fuel feedstock be addressed?**

It will not be addressed in this solicitation. For more information on the environmental impact of transportation fuels see the Energy Commission's "Full Fuel Cycle Assessment: Well to Wheels Energy Inputs, Emissions and Water Impacts: State Plan to Increase the Use of Non-Petroleum Transportation Fuels-Assembly Bill 1007 (Pavley) Alternative Transportation Fuels Plan Proceeding" at [www.energy.ca.gov/2007publications/CEC-600-2007-004/CEC-600-2007-004-REV.PDF](http://www.energy.ca.gov/2007publications/CEC-600-2007-004/CEC-600-2007-004-REV.PDF)

**3. Are there funds available for job development? We can train a lot of people and have a well-prepared workforce, but are the jobs there or will they be there?**

No, the funds under this SFP are not allowable for job development.

**4. What is the best way for qualified trainers and material developers to meet up with the subject matter experts who could use such support?**

Go to the Energy Commissions Green Jobs Web site at [www.energy.ca.gov/greenjobs/index.html](http://www.energy.ca.gov/greenjobs/index.html) and complete the form under “Interested in Forming Green Job Partnerships” with your organization’s information and what you have to offer. You can also see which others are interested in forming [partnerships](#).

**5. Will there be a funding source for clean technology innovators focusing on energy efficient products?**

No, not under this SFP. We are focused on workforce development for this SFP. If you are interested in learning about funding opportunities for energy research and demonstration projects, visit the Energy Commission’s Web site at [www.energy.ca.gov](http://www.energy.ca.gov) and click on the “Funding” tab on the top right of the page.

**6. Our wastewater treatment agency has a plan to partner with our local WIB and community college to accept motivated individuals as interns to become certified treatment plant operators. These interns will learn energy efficiency (methane) and water efficiency (recycled water) skills. The SFP has repeated reference to “construction” and installation.” Must this training be focused just on construction or can it focus on “operator certification”?**

There is no funding in this SFP for recycled water workforce training. The methane production and use could be funded under the clean energy categories.

**7. What is the definition of “region” or “regional focus”?**

We have not defined region or regional focus. It will be left up to each applicant at the local level to define what their region and regional focus is using a wide variety of relevant data as support.

**8. We are based in Pomona, but have foreign partners in China and the Philippines, will this partnership be allowed? We intend to partner with a community college and university here in Pomona?**

This funding is intended to provide training for California’s workers. Partnerships must be local or regional. Hopefully next year, after the successes of this program, the programs, and technologies can be models for other states and countries. Partnerships should be local or regional.

**9. This is in regards to ETP for the funds that are going to be combined with the Energy Commission and that will have, perhaps some updated rules that are a little bit different than the current application when do you expect to see those updated rules and what would be the process for applying for those?**

We will take our outline for that program to our panel tomorrow (08/11/09), as a matter of fact. If they sign off on that, then we should have those available on our website within the next week or so and then it would be a standard application process after that. [8/31/09]

**10. If you're not already an eligible training provider and you can't get on the list, is there a list of partners that's open to the public that we can partner with or are there different ways to actually get on the list?**

Yes, go to the Energy Commissions Green Jobs Web site at [www.energy.ca.gov/greenjobs/index.html](http://www.energy.ca.gov/greenjobs/index.html) and click on the [View Partner Information and Identify Potential Partners](#) link for potential partners. [8/31/09]

**11. Is an ETP grant considered part of the dollar-for-dollar match?**

We are taking a very expansive view on match funds. Any kind of match funds, whether it be cash, in-kind, or from ETP would be ok as long as you provide a commitment letter. [8/31/09]

**12. Would a local agency include local water agencies, some of which are private agencies? Is that considered a local government?**

Absolutely, we highly recommend working with local utilities both energy and water utilities agencies since they have funds and training programs. You should access any existing programs as much as possible and it would absolutely look well on a partnership that would include a local water agency. [8/31/09]

**13. It occurs to me that there are colleges that we heard here that already have strong curricula - is there any ability within this proposal to take what already exists and be able to train trainers or to move this into a network rather than having 15 different college districts do the same thing?**

There are probably a number of ways to do that and that was our goal with the regional action clinic that are requiring all of the awardees to come together in a semi-annual basis to trade practices. What systems are being used; what is working; what isn't working within a program. This is part of the SFP requirements. I believe that there are a number of opportunities to do what you are talking about and doing it very well. I would like to talk to you and anybody else about any ideas you have. [8/31/09]

## **Match**

**1. Must all applicants have funds to match the entire amount of the proposal? Please expand on this matching activity?**

Yes, we are requiring a dollar-for-dollar match. That match can come from WIA funds; if you're a local investment board you can use your formula money. In-kind or cash matches may also come from other federal, state, philanthropic, employers, or other fund sources.

**2. Can we use federal Department of Labor (DOL) funds as matching funds?**

Yes, DOL funds may be used as a match. The grant recipient of those funds must write a commitment letter stating that they commit X dollars specifically for this initiative.

## **Performance Goals**

**1. Are the performance goals percentages cumulative? Does 81 percent retention mean 81 percent of all participants (even those who didn't complete training) will retain jobs for six months, or does it mean 81 percent of those placed in unsubsidized employment will retain jobs for 6 months?**

The goal is for 81 percent of the participants placed in unsubsidized employment to retain this employment for 6 months.

## **Proposal Criteria**

**1. For Category 2a and 2b, are there certain grade levels of math, reading, etc. that you expect after training is completed?**

This is up to the applicant to determine for a particular job or occupation. One participant may need 12th grade math skills while others will not. Businesses, particularly those on your Green Employers Council, should inform you what the expectation is in terms of reading and math levels.

**2. In response to category 1a, the three bonus points for a comprehensive sequence of courses. We are going to be responding to several employer needs that may not need all six of those courses they may need four, but overall we will respond to six with multiple employers. Can we justify that in a proposal?**

Yes, absolutely. What we're trying to set up here is a comprehensive offering from the applicant while leaving it up to the individual to tell you what kind of training they want to go through. You're absolutely right, you may have a solar installer, or a home performance contractor that does not want to get their employee trained or doesn't have the time. We are leaving it up to the applicant to make whatever kind of offerings they want on these minimum requirements. But then if there is a sequential holistic program also offered along side of that, which has a complement of a variety of skills, additional preference points will be given. It is by no means a requirement that every individual going through every training program, take every single one of those programs, or go for each one of those certifications. We're just giving additional preference points because we feel that particularly in a dynamic market like this with a significant amount of change in the clean energy sector, we want to give the opportunity for individuals to have different skill sets that they want to go after. That will enable them to jump between jobs and career choices that they want to without forcing them to go in any particular direction. [8/31/09]

**3. So to follow up then [on the question above], if at least one cohort of the people participating do all six then that would qualify for bonus points over all? If some people are going through four and some people are going through five, at least one group must go through all six is that correct?**

Yes, we would agree to that. [8/31/09]