

Alternative and Renewable Fuels and Vehicle Technology Program Phase II 2010/11 Award List and Project Summaries

On January 14, 2011, grants were awarded to three organizations under the Alternative and Renewable Fuels and Vehicle Technology Program Phase II. Project descriptions, award amount, and contact information are listed below. Award decisions are final.

Applicant Name	County	Award Amount
Northern Rural Training & Employment Consortium	Butte	\$500,000
Orange County Workforce Investment Board	Orange	\$500,000
Solano Community College	Solano	\$500,000
Total Award Amount		\$1,500,000

Northern Rural Training & Employment Consortium
525 Wall Street
Chico, CA 95926

Stewart Knox
(530) 892-9600

Award Amount: \$500,000

Industry of Focus: The focus of this project will be on the companies involved in development and deployment of propane and gas hybrid projects to retrofit light, medium and heavy-duty on-road vehicle fleets which will create higher fuel efficiencies, employ idle management technology, and decrease fuel consumption and emissions.

Targeted Participants Served: Target populations include incumbent workers who could be dislocated without skills upgrades, dislocated workers, unemployed, underemployed and special needs groups such as adults, youth, veterans and prior criminal convictions.

Key Partner Highlights: Partners include the Northern Rural Training and Employment Consortium Workforce Investment Board, One Stop Center, Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program (ARFVTP) Employers, Green Employer Council, Community College, ROP Program, California State University, Chico and the City of Chico. Also to be involved will be the Propane Education & Research Council and the National Propane Gas Association, as well as ROUSH CleanTech and U-Haul fleet department.

Project Description: The Planned Approach for the Alternative & Renewable Fuels and Vehicle Technology Program includes three elements:

1. Accelerate Deployment—transition the petroleum-based fuel and vehicle market in the north state to one based on a diversity of low-carbon alternative and renewable fuels and vehicles technologies by implementing a DOE Clean Cities initiatives, a more focused strategy on encouraging use of alternatives at the community level with private fleet owners of medium-heavy-duty trucks, local government and other users and creating the infrastructure for supporting deployment.
2. Liquid Propane Retrofit, Medium & Heavy-duty Truck, Certified Training—focus specialized training for retrofitting medium and heavy-duty on-road and off-road vehicle fleets with technologies that create higher fuel efficiencies (propane) which will retain and create over 65+ jobs with existing companies who have the opportunity to deploy this new technology.
3. New Technology Development—working with University, working with existing companies on the development and testing new technologies, such as, plug-in hybrid electric engine and biodiesel.

Proposed Outcomes: Given potential number of fleet vehicles and heavy duty vehicles that could be retrofitted to propane or gas-hybrid per year with existing companies, estimate 25 jobs retrained and a minimum of 30 direct jobs in manufacturing and production and 10 indirect (maintenance) created, total 65, within one year, and an annual increase of 20% per year to meet increasing demand.

**Orange County Workforce Investment Board
1300 South Grand Avenue, Building B, Third Floor
Santa Ana, CA 92705**

Andrew Munoz
(714) 567-7370

Award Amount: \$500,000

Industry of Focus: The OC-ARFVTP focuses on two industries: 1) the design, manufacturing and distribution of alternative fuel vehicles and components, and 2) the repair and maintenance of alternative vehicles. Both industries were identified by employers, educators and research as requiring skills training for new and experienced workers for both the industries and the workers to remain competitive in the marketplace and assist in the economic recovery of the region.

Targeted Participants Served: The OC-ARFVTP will target incumbent workers, unemployed and underemployed adults. Seventy-five (75) Incumbent Workers (including underemployed workers) identified by employers and 30 unemployed and underemployed individuals for skills training in the design, development, engineering, manufacturing, and repair and maintenance of alternative vehicles and components.

Key Partner Highlights: Employers include Quantum Fuel Systems Technologies Worldwide, Inc. (Quantum Technologies), a State recognized ARFVTP employer headquartered in Orange County that is a fully integrated alternative energy company that specializes in areas including alternative fuel and electric drive systems and Fisker Automotive an Orange County based developer and manufacturer of plug-in hybrid electric cars. Training Providers include Cypress College, University of California Irvine, the Society of Automotive Engineers International, and CleanTech Institute. Industry partners include the National Fuel Cell Research Center and CleanTech OC.

Project Description: The OC-ARFVTP responds directly to the hiring and training needs identified by local firms to bridge the skills gaps of new and experienced workers in the industries. Through employer identified skills gaps and the training competencies developed by the educators, the project will train 75 incumbent workers, and 30 unemployed and underemployed workers in the latest alternative fuel and vehicles technologies, safety, device software engineering, and project management. The project incorporates two tracks of planned services that will run concurrently. The first track is for incumbent workers, which may include underemployed workers, identified by employers for training to begin within the first six months of the project. The second track is for unemployed and underemployed who will be recruited through the Orange County One-Stop Centers and Youth Programs and that meet the project eligibility requirements. In addition to the training received, the unemployed and underemployed participants will also receive the full range of services through the One-Stop Centers and Youth Programs including access to soft-skills workshops, supportive services, job readiness skills building, job development, and employment retention.

Proposed Outcomes: Outcomes will include Placement in Training (100% of the 105 participants will be enrolled in training); Completed Training (80% of participants will complete training); Attained Recognized Certificate (80% of participants will attain a recognized certificate); Placement in Unsubsidized Employment (73% of unemployed and underemployed participants will be placed); and Retained Employment (83% of unemployed and underemployed participants, and 81% of incumbent workers will retain employment). These outcomes meet or exceed the State's Performance Goals.

Solano Community College
4000 Suisun Valley Road
Fairfield, CA 94534-3197

Lucia Robles
(707) 863-7866

Award Amount: \$500,000

Industry of Focus: California continues to lead the nation in hybrid sales out performing all other states. The Centers of Excellence 2009 Study indicates the occupational group that will be most affected by the alternative fuels movement is Automotive Technicians and Mechanics. This occupational group will need to acquire additional knowledge and skills in hybrid vehicle maintenance.

Targeted Participants Served: The target population (160 Students) will be comprised of incumbent and unemployed automotive service technician and mechanics that do not have access to dealer-supplied training in hybrid safety, diagnostics, maintenance, and repair. We identified this target group from reports that are available through the United States Department of Labor – Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Key Partner Highlights: Solano Community College (SCC) has formed a solid partnership with the Solano County Workforce Investment Board (WIB), and with our regional WIBs through our participation with the regional WIB Clean Energy Workforce Training Program grant. In addition, SCC has an active ongoing Green Employer Council that meets monthly with 30 of Solano County's business, educational, and political leadership.

Project Description: Our target region is the 50-mile radius from Solano County. Solano County is centrally positioned east of the San Francisco Bay Area and west of the Sacramento Metropolitan area. It is also centrally located south of Sonoma/Napa County and north of Santa Clara/Contra Costa County. Collectively, within our 50-mile radius, we have 9.56 million people, representing 26% of California's total population, with Solano County in the center. Our proposed effort directly addresses training incumbent and unemployed workers with skills to safely diagnose and repair hybrid vehicles. We have chosen excellent curriculum and training resources to accomplish the Grant training program. We will train a minimum of 160 individuals from our targeted region. Hybrid training introduces skills related to servicing large high-voltage batteries, electric motors, controllers, and software. It also provides instruction on the safety practices appropriate to working on hybrid vehicles. In addition, our proposed training effort also directly addresses two of the ARFVTP training and workforce development examples provided:

- High performance and low-emission vehicle technology
- Automotive computer systems

Proposed Outcomes: Solano Community College is rapidly becoming a recognized leader in the area of sustainability primarily due to the success of the existing Clean Energy Workforce Training Program grant. We have gained momentum and established Green infrastructure to enable us to train 160 screened students with the skills necessary to competently work on the growing hybrid market share. We expect all 160 students to successfully complete the training. Our 160 "graduated" trainees will then have the competent expertise and skills to safely diagnose and maintain hybrid vehicles.