



Texas Foundation for Innovative Communities Newsletter

Research Report on Building Commissioning Released

As part of the Wagner-Peyser grant from the Office of the Governor and Texas Workforce Commission, TFIC and Good Company Associates must produce targeted industry research reports on subsectors of the energy efficiency, renewable energy, and smart energy industries.

Based on input from members of our Green Jobs Business Council, it was decided that the first research paper would address building commissioning and retro-commissioning. The paper was released in November and is available online at: www.txcleanenergypark.com/supporting_docs.php.

Building Commissioning is "a systematic process of ensuring that the performance of the facility and its systems meet the specified design intent and operational needs." Retro-commissioning refers to the same process performed on an existing building.



The best industry studies of commissioning suggest an industry of over \$1 billion annually for new building commissioning and \$200 million annually for retro-commissioning nationally. Trends for both are up in recent years due to a variety of factors. First and foremost, commissioning

provides quick paybacks in energy savings: about one year for retro-commissioning and less than five years for new buildings, according to the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

The research paper includes several recommendations, including the possible creation of multiple tiers of commissioning training, some of which could leverage the renowned advanced commissioning training currently conducted by Texas A&M University's Energy Systems Laboratory.

The paper also recommends that colleges consider creating a business development and sales module to be integrated into each of the tiers of the educational programs so that certificants/graduates will be able to communicate the benefits of commissioning to potential customers.

Our research for the paper also uncovered a commissioning curriculum developed under a National Science Foundation grant that could be picked up in whole or in part by Texas community colleges and adapted for use here. A task force of the Business Council will be analyzing the curriculum and making recommendations about which parts would be useful to industry.

Thanks again to all members of the Green Jobs Business Council, the Green Corridor Consortium, and the numerous other stakeholders and experts who contributed to this report.

Follow-up Survey Underway

To supplement the commissioning report with additional data from industry, we are in the process of surveying companies working in the industry in Texas. The purpose of the survey is to further quantify and qualify the findings we reported by asking additional individuals working in commissioning in Texas directly about the employment trends and training needs of their companies. The results will be compiled and distributed to our stakeholders in the near future. If your company would like to take the survey, please visit www.tficsurvey.com.

INNOVATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



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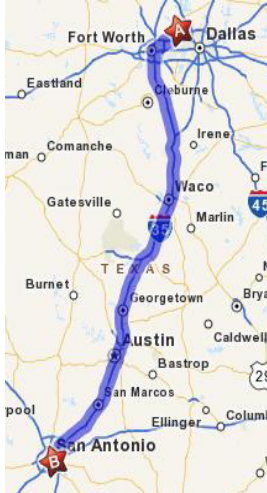
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**HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND
BEST WISHES FOR
2010!**

Inventories of Clean Energy Initiatives in Central Texas Published



In an effort to catalogue the numerous clean energy initiatives that have been launched throughout Central Texas in recent years, TFIC and Good Company Associates have begun to compile inventories of the region's clean energy initiatives, from utility projects to community collaborations and everything in-between.

- Did you know that Waco boasts the first "green" Chamber of Commerce building in America? And that it is powered 100% by renewable energy?
- Did you know that the I-35 Green Corridor Consortium and the Texas Greenbelt Coalition are separate initiatives?

These efforts and more are detailed in the reports available online at www.txcleanenergypark.com/supporting_docs.php.

If you have an initiative or organization that you feel should be included in future versions of the inventories, please send an email to cwinland@goodcompanyassociates.com.

TFIC Included in Two Additional Grants

TFIC was pleased to be included in two successful proposals for recently awarded grants from the Texas Workforce Commission to develop trainings on energy efficiency and renewable energy (EE/RE) topics.

In one project, TFIC will be expanding its role with the community colleges and workforce boards in the I-35 Green Corridor Consortium to provide additional subject matter expertise and industry connections that will guide curriculum development for "green" skills needed in our evolving economy.

In the other project, TFIC will be providing subject matter expertise and industry connections to Texas A&M's Energy System Laboratory as they develop trainings on the energy code.

TFIC looks forward to doing its part to ensure the trainings to be developed are driven by current and anticipated industry needs.



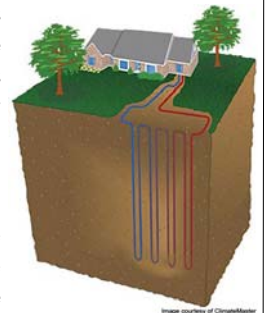
Upcoming Events

Texas Clean Energy Park Forum on Building Commissioning — January 15, 2010

As a follow-up to the release of our industry report on building commissioning, a train-the-trainer session for educators and interested stakeholders will be held at Texas A&M on January 15. For additional information, please contact Doug Lewin at 512-279-0753 or dlewin@goodcompanyassociates.com.

Industry Report on Geothermal Heat Pumps — February 2010

Based on input from our Green Jobs Business Council and members of the Green Corridor Consortium, it was decided that our next detailed industry report will be on geothermal heat pumps.



As with the commissioning report, the report will cover the status of the industry as a whole, the current state of trainings and certifications, an inventory of the industry and available trainings in Texas, and the industry's potential job implications for the State.

The report will be released in February of 2010. If you would like to provide input, please send an email to cwinland@goodcompanyassociates.com.



Texas Clean Energy Park Forum on Geothermal Heat Pumps — March 2010

Our second Clean Energy Park Forum will be held in March 2010 as a follow-up to the release of our industry report on geothermal heat pumps. More details to follow soon.

Green Jobs Workshop at the Texas Capitol — March 26th, 2010

A green jobs workshop will be held in the Texas Capitol Extension Auditorium in Austin on March 26th to bring together industry leaders, workforce professionals, and educators interested in developing and learning more about our region's evolving green economy. Topics to be discussed include green job employment trends, market conditions, future priorities, and training needs. Please plan to attend!