



Texas Foundation for Innovative Communities Newsletter

Research on Smart Energy Technologies Published

The third industry research report completed as part of our Wagner-Peyser grant from the Office of the Governor and Texas Workforce Commission was recently released. It covers "smart energy technologies" and was produced at the request of the Green Corridor Collaborative of community colleges and workforce investment boards.



In the context of the paper, the term smart energy technologies refers to all of the advanced technologies located behind a customer's electric meter that add intelligence to energy management, including digital control and communications technologies such as building automation systems (BAS), "smart" thermostats, in-home energy management displays, home area networks (HAN) for energy management, grid-friendly appliances, and certain resources that enable demand response.

In general, most smart energy workers and employers will come from existing industries and require enhanced skill training. To effectively serve consumers in the smart energy industry, workers will need to be able to offer comprehensive services.

For example, an air conditioning contractor will need to be able to service the electronics in the digital thermostat that control the air conditioner as well as the air conditioner itself, and the customer service representative at the local utility will need enhanced skills to accurately diagnose problems within a home or building and dispatch the appropriate technician. There are broad workforce needs in this industry, the training and cross-training of which represent both challenges and opportunities.

These findings along with others and some initial recommendations can be found in the complete report, available online at: www.txcleanenergypark.com/supporting_docs.php.

INNOVATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



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TFIC Helps San Antonio Go Green

TFIC and Good Company Associates have been proud to provide subject matter expertise and support to Mayor Castro's Green Jobs Leadership Council in San Antonio. Stakeholders throughout the City are taking aggressive and coordinated steps to ensure San Antonio is a leader in the emerging green economy, and we applaud their efforts.

To assist San Antonio, we compiled an inventory of clean energy businesses in the metropolitan area and launched two workforce surveys of the city's energy efficiency and renewable energy industry. We also provided input on a competitive economic development assessment report.

TFIC was also proud to be included in the Energy-Regional Innovation Cluster (E-RIC) proposal organized by the Texas Engineering Experiment Station (TEES). The proposed Building Energy-Conservation, Efficiency, and Technologies Regional Innovation Cluster (BE-CENTRIC) is organized around the unique aspects of San Antonio's Mission Verde Center and includes TEES, UT-San Antonio, Southwest Research Institute, UT-Austin, the City of San Antonio, South Texas Small Business Development Center, and the Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center.

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GET INVOLVED WITH THE FUTURE OF TEXAS

Update on Green Corridor Collaborative Curriculum Development Grant

As previously reported, TFIC and Good Company Associates have been working with six community colleges in the Green Corridor Collaborative under a grant from the Texas Workforce Commission to develop "green" curriculum modules in energy efficiency and renewable energy topics. These are not necessarily brand new courses (though some may be), but rather modules that can be inserted into existing curriculum in areas like construction management and HVAC to reflect emerging requirements. They can also be offered as stand-alone continuing education classes.

The intent of the project is to "green" the existing community college curriculum while making the content available for incumbent businesses and their workers as well. Over the past few months we have convened meetings of subject matter experts throughout the state on relevant topics including:

- Commissioning
- Advanced building controls
- Solar water heating
- Green construction management
- Green sales
- Energy auditing

The meetings and curriculum development will run through the spring; if you have ideas for topics or experts to participate, please let us know by calling Doug Lewin at 512-279-0753.

Update on Texas A&M University ESL Curriculum Development Grant

TFIC and Good Company Associates have also been working with Texas A&M University's Energy Systems Laboratory (ESL) and other partners under a separate grant from the Texas Workforce Commission on the development of energy code trainings, related technical trainings, and a certification endorsement for energy efficiency and renewable energy practitioners and interested parties.

Three subject matter expert meetings have been held in Austin for this project, bringing together over 12 distinguished experts in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and the electrical, plumbing, HVAC, and construction trades.

As part of the grant, a number of free training workshops will be offered in Texas over the next year. A Circle of 10 Inc. is managing the training calendar. Requests for training will be considered in the order reserved. To indicate your interest, or for more information, please contact Kathy Holdway or Donna Timmons at circleof10@circleof10.org or 903-541-0013.

TFIC Supports DOE Building America Team

On July 20, the US Department of Energy announced the award of \$30 million to fund 15 research and deployment "Building America" partnerships focused on energy efficient housing. TFIC was a supporting organization on the successful proposal led by the Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems. Other partners include Owens Corning, researchers from MIT, and the City of Austin Housing Authority.



Upcoming Events

Texas Clean Energy Park Forum on Smart Energy Technologies — August 16, 2010

As a follow-up to the release of our industry report on smart energy technologies, a lunch-and-learn session for educators and interested stakeholders on a recent deployment of smart energy technologies in Central Texas will be held on August 16. For additional information, please contact Doug Lewin at 512-279-0753 or dlewin@goodcompanyassociates.com.

Austin Community College Offering Free Courses on Commercial Energy Efficiency — Aug. 17 & 19

Austin Community College, in partnership with Austin Energy, will be presenting Commercial Energy Efficiency classes free to building owners, managers, or their representatives. Click [here for more information and a registration form](#). The course is perfect for those who would like help understanding how to plan and implement projects or how to rate the energy efficiency of buildings to comply with Austin's Energy Conservation Audit & Disclosure (ECAD) Ordinance.

Classes are scheduled on August 17 and 19; future classes will be scheduled each month through May 2011. ACC Continuing Education will list the dates and times in their on-line Course Schedule at <http://www.austincc.edu/ce/schedule/> under the [Building Construction Technology \(CEBCT\)](#) link.

Clean Air Through Energy Efficiency (CATEE) Conference — August 24-25

Current energy and emissions reduction issues facing Texas will be discussed at the 2010 CATEE Conference, which will be held in Austin this year, through a variety of presentations, interactive sessions, and workshops targeting state policymakers, industry leaders, and other stakeholders.

Keynote speakers announced for opening session include Mayor Lee Leffingwell (City of Austin), C. Donald Babers (Regional Administrator for Region VI, U.S. HUD), and Chairman Barry Smitherman (Public Utility Commission of Texas). For more information, visit <http://catee.tamu.edu>.