

National Center for a Clean Energy Workforce

Public Workshop

March 14, 2011

California Energy Commission, Hearing Room A

Overview

The California Energy Commission is holding a public workshop to create an open dialog on a proposal to establish the National Center for the Clean Energy Workforce (NCCEW). The intent of the center is to meet the workforce needs created by clean energy economic development. The workshop will bring together all stakeholders interested in providing input for the center's establishment, funding, governance and operation.

Summary of the Proposal to Establish the NCCEW

The center will provide strategic support and technical assistance to businesses, educators, workforce agencies and related stakeholders to strengthen the capacity of California, and all other states, to build a clean energy economy. It will focus on three broad sectors: renewable energy, energy efficiency, and clean transportation.

To gauge the feasibility of establishing this center, the Energy Commission commissioned a study by the UC Berkeley Labor Center. The study was based on extensive input from numerous clean energy and workforce development experts throughout the country. The study proposes that the center should have four primary functions:

- **Research**
Evaluate existing research, identify key gaps, and engage in primary research where gaps are identified.
- **Clearinghouse and Communications**
Serve as an "information hub" on model practices.
- **Technical assistance**
Build states' capacity to align their policies, practices to promote consistent skill standards and link clean energy workforce development planning to labor demand.
- **Policy analysis**
Independently evaluate policy initiatives and engage with energy and workforce stakeholders in policy development.

To test the viability of establishing the center and ensuring its sustainability, the Energy Commission proposes to establish a model state center in California for a three-year period. The long-term operation of the center would then be transferred to a network of regional hubs in five regions: Washington DC, the Northeast, the Midwest, and the South, and the West.

Stakeholders encouraged to participate in the workshop and provide input for the center include utilities, business, educators, government, non-governmental agencies, workforce agencies and others with an interest in clean energy workforce and economic development.