



Ohio GROWS Quarterly Newsletter 2nd Quarter April 1 – June 30, 2010

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Senator Brown's visit
to the Toledo JATC

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Director's Corner

Welcome to our first **Ohio GROWS** newsletter. We hope to publish a newsletter every quarter to keep you informed with everything that is happening with your grant. We will include articles from our two Field Coordinators, Mike Hassell and Mike Hines, information from the OELMCC in their role as the grant recipients and copies of reports that we have to turn in to the government. We also would like to encourage all who are reading this to contribute their thoughts, experiences, and questions to share with everyone through this newsletter. We will be announcing a series of dates for publication so that everyone will know the timeline to get their articles into the grant office for publication in the newsletter. We will be posting the newsletter on our web site as well as sending everyone electronic copies. If you would prefer a printed copy, please contact our office.

The official start of the **Ohio GROWS** grant was January 15, 2010. The first few months were used to get the office organized, hire individuals for the three open positions and read and attend numerous webinar events regarding the reports the government requires us to file. We have an awesome web site (www.ohiogrows.org) up and running and we have brochures and display boards that can be used by everyone to advertise the grant. In addition, we are working with a public TV station, WBGU-TV, to do a documentary showcasing the life of this grant from beginning to fruition. A gentleman by the name of Jeff Betts is doing this project. He may be contacting you throughout the year for your input. We hope to have this documentary finished by the end of March 2011. This will be used by the Department of Labor and other government agencies to publicize the grant and the use of ARRA funds. We will also make it available to you to use as a recruiting tool to showcase the great work you all do.

We have a Federal Project Officer assigned to us, Ray Garcia, out of the Chicago office that assists in interpreting the grant and the requirements that are expected of us in managing this project. Marsha Kujawa and I attended a new grantee training session in Chicago to keep updated on all of the latest rules.

And now here we are over six months into the grant and can report that as of June 30th we have trained 58 participants in six Wind Technician classes and 130 participants in 14 Photovoltaic classes, for a total of 188 journeymen/apprentices trained. Out of this group, records show that five have received employment in the training area of photovoltaic or wind and nineteen have received employment in other areas of electrical work indirectly related to the training they received. We have until October 2011 to complete the training under this grant. The actual grant will expire on January 15, 2012, but according to the grant officials all training should stop a minimum of three months prior to the actual grant ending.

As of June 30th, we have drawn down \$172,037.57 on this \$4.8 million dollar grant. Please refer to the **Ohio GROWs** website for all the latest information regarding class schedules. Please be sure you have communicated your class schedules to your Field Coordinators or contacted this office directly so the dates, locations and type of class can be put on the web site calendar.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who issues certificates for the training?

The training JATC must order the certificates from the NJATC for the participants. The Field Coordinators and this office will keep a listing of those participants who successfully earn the capstone certificate from the NJATC. The home JATC should keep copies of the certificates earned by their members and when all three classes are completed, apply for the capstone certificates.

How do I register my members for a class?

The training director or designated individual should contact the training JATC to register their members. The Ohio GROWs web site has applications and class registration forms the individual can complete.

How long do I wait for reimbursement?

Before this office can send in the request for reimbursement from the requesting JATC site, we first must have received the signed attendance sheet from the training site. This is needed to reimburse the grants-in-aid of \$400 for those participants completing the training. Once we have the signed attendance sheet and the travel expense report (including receipts) from the participants, the invoices are sent to Frank Cloud, our fiscal agent in Hamilton, Ohio. Invoices are sent twice a month, the second and fourth Monday. Frank then draws down the money from the federal government, which can take up to three days. Once the money is deposited into the checking account, checks are written, delivered to Don Bolling for his signature and then the checks are sent out to the JATC's. This procedure can take between 2-4 weeks depending on all of these factors. Timely reimbursement is dependent on many people.....starting with the training JATC.



Coming next issue.....

**Senator Brown visits
Toledo JATC July 26, 2010**



DEADLINE for articles to be included in the next issue is Monday, November 1st



GREEN & RENEWABLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORKERS

Ohio Green and Renewable opportunities for Workers (GROWS) project is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Energy Training Partnership grants.

Quarterly Report – Ohio GROWS Mike Hassell – Field Coordinator

After a slow start, the OhioGROWS project is well underway. Training has focused primarily on photovoltaic and wind turbine systems. In the very near future, more than thirty instructors will complete the energy efficiency Train-the-Trainer class in Columbus. This will add to the opportunity for our workforce to extend their skill sets, increasing their marketability and providing prospects for contractors to seek out additional hi-tech jobs.

With the current government incentives making alternative energy systems attractive choices in Ohio, we need to position the contractors and workforce in such a manner to take advantage of this unique ground floor opportunity. For some perspective, the United States had 429 megawatts of solar power installed last year, according to preliminary figures from the trade group Solar Energy Industries Association. Of that total, 85 percent was from small systems installed on homes and businesses. Only 15 percent, or 66 megawatts, was from utility companies. With the average installed price of larger systems over 100KW dropping to almost \$5.00 per watt, contractors and customers are in a position to make a cost effective and environmentally friendly installation decision.

Our industry is meeting this opportunity with training classes in almost all of our JATC programs. Wireman from Columbus, Newark and Mansfield completed the initial solar training classes in held in July. Classes are scheduled in August for Columbus, Cleveland, Youngstown and Canton. Warren, Akron and Painsville will add PV classes in September. There are countless PV jobs in our jurisdiction just waiting to be installed and maintained by the best trained electrical workforce available.

Quarterly Report – Ohio GROWs Mike Hines – Field Coordinator

The Ohio GROWs program is finally off and running. We have trained more people in the last month than in the previous six months combined. By the end of August, we should have locals throughout the state actively scheduling and teaching classes in Energy Efficiency. This will greatly boost our training numbers. Wind and solar energy are an emerging sector of our industry and will become increasingly important, but the payback of energy efficiency is an obvious boon to our customers and should lead the way. Some of our locals have said they will be using all their allocated seats to energy efficiency.

Thus far the majority of our training has been to unemployed members looking to increase their marketable skills during the down times we have suffered. We have used the economic condition to our advantage to work with JATCs and get people in the seats for training. But we started with the Labor Management Cooperative Committee. The IBEW and NECA committed together to train our people in sectors that promise increasing acceptance and great growth potential. We need now to begin to focus on contractors and their incumbent workers who can bring the value of the training directly to our customers. Contractors we need you. We encourage our NECA chapter managers to promote the value of renewable power training to their members to be able to offer one more service to our valued customers. The simple truth is no one loses in training and there will be big winners. Remember that by 2025 we are scheduled to produce 25% of our retail energy by renewable resources and right now we hover around 1%. There is some serious work coming here.

It used to be that we made hay while the sun shines; now we make power. Local 82 Brother Jeff Brown graduated from the solar training at Dayton's JATC

and is currently working for Lake Erie Electric. He was our first grant solar graduate to work on a solar job. Brother Brown became a solar veteran working with ESI on the DP&L Yankee Road ground mount solar array and became a celebrity when he made the cover of the SolarPro Magazine's June/July Issue. Brother Brown said the information he received in the solar class was relevant to his work experience and provided him with skills that will make him a more valuable team member. The DP&L site is a 1.1 megawatt amorphous silicon array covering 7 acres in Montgomery County. It took 13,000 construction hours to mount the 9120 solar panels using 73 tons of steel and 67 tons of aluminum. The company says the unit will provide enough power for 150 homes for a year and will provide valuable long term information for providing more solar power. More of these jobs are on the way and we need to be ready to do them.

DOL is now requiring date of birth for participants. Please make sure you are using the update Ohio GROWs forms for your classes. They can be found on the web site at www.ohiogrows.org under Forms.

