

South Dakota Department of Labor
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Labor Department receives \$2.5 million green jobs training grant

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Labor (DOL) has been awarded a \$2.5 million green jobs training grant authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The competitive grant program was open to all 50 states. South Dakota's winning application was written and submitted by DOL as part of the Workforce 2025 initiative.

The State Energy Sector Partnerships and Training Grants are designed to teach workers essential skills for emerging industries, including the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors. South Dakota's project will provide training for high-wage occupations in high-growth energy and other green-related jobs.

More unemployed workers are looking to the Department of Labor for assistance, said Pam Roberts, South Dakota Secretary of Labor.

“We applied for this grant so we can increase the opportunities for unemployed and dislocated workers to move into good energy related occupations,” Roberts said. “We need to have a skilled and trained workforce as the state moves toward a green energy industry. Our expectation is about 300 South Dakotans will benefit from the training that will be available under this grant.”

Secretary Roberts said the focus will be on renewable energy, biofuels, carbon capture and energy efficiency.

“The key players in developing the training will be other state agencies and education and industry partners,” she added.

DOL has developed strong working relationships with the state's technical institutes and universities. Those connections will help as existing programs are updated to reflect the current green emphasis, and opportunities for registered apprenticeships will provide a significant value. New green-related programs will also be designed and implemented.

To learn more about job training opportunities available through DOL, visit www.sdjobs.org