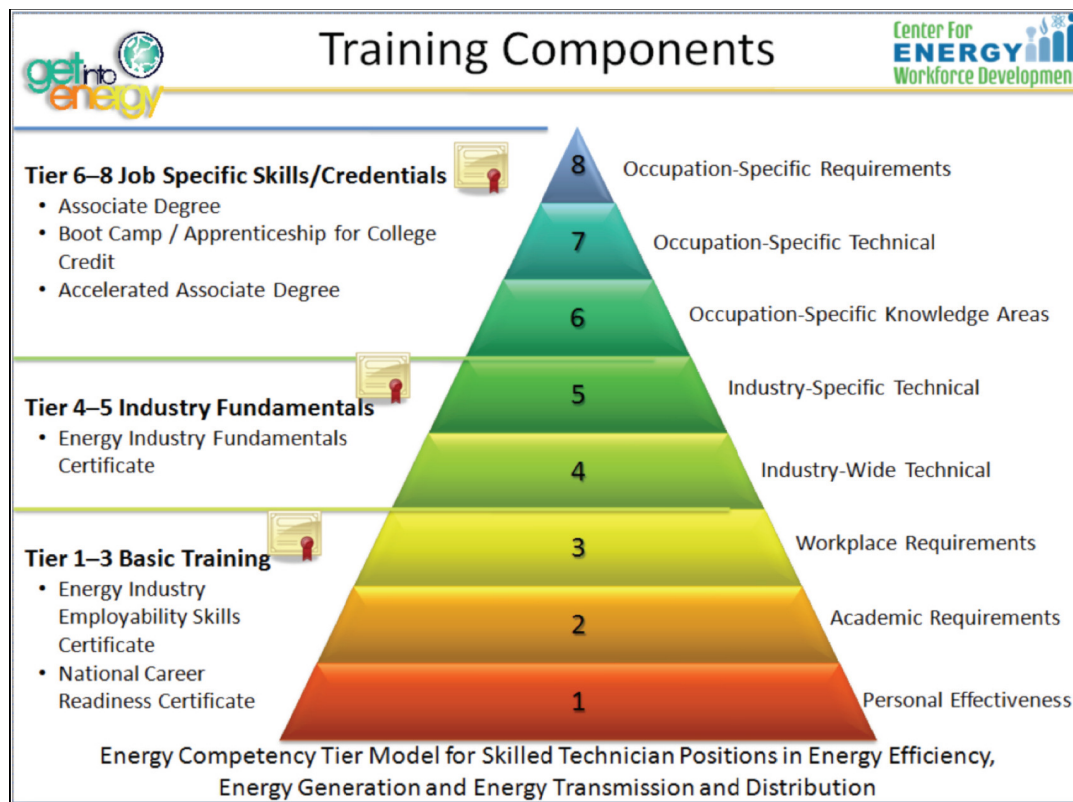


## What is the *Energy Industry Fundamentals Certificate*?

Developed by the Center for Energy Workforce Development, CEWD is a non-profit consortium of electric, natural gas, and nuclear utilities and their associations - Edison Electric Institute, American Gas Association, Nuclear Energy Institute, and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. CEWD was formed to help utilities work together to develop solutions to the coming workforce shortage in the utility industry. One solution is to fill a gap in industry training. While there are occupation-specific credentials in the energy industry, there is no credential that ensures potential workers gain an understanding of the industry as a whole to make occupation-specific training more meaningful and to understand how one's company (once hired) fits into the big picture. In many instances, utilities end up having to provide this training after employees are hired. This philosophy of learning the basics before occupational training aligns with the energy industry competency model. See the pyramid below.



## Why should my school offer it?

The Energy Industry Fundamentals course, for which the credential is based, takes a comprehensive look at the energy industry, including nuclear, natural gas, and renewable. Instructor guides and student materials are provided as part of the program, focusing on experiential learning techniques with a comprehensive online assessment at the end of the course. Students will be required to pass the assessment to receive the certificate.

## What are the benefits to students?

Since CEWD is a coalition made up of energy companies, this credential is being created by the industry for the industry. This ensures that students are learning the right material that will help them succeed at their jobs.

## How is it structured?

Energy Industry Fundamentals is divided into modules. For those who want offer the opportunity for their students to earn the credentials, all modules must be completed. This may not be the case in all situations, so schools or other training organizations can just use specific modules to fill in what they are already doing. The modules for the program include:

- Basic and emerging principles and concepts that impact the energy industry
- Compliance with procedures necessary to ensure a safe and healthy work environment
- Electric power generation
- Electric power and natural gas transmission
- Electric and natural gas distribution
- Energy careers and entry requirements
- Energy 'hot topics' (such as Smart Grid technologies)

## What is required of our school to issue the credential?

CEWD is seeking accreditation from the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) for assessment-based certificate programs. Therefore, there will be a set of requirements for organizations offering the course to lead to the credential. CEWD is in the process of setting up the administration of the credential as well as developing the materials, so these requirements will be available once accreditation is received.

## When will it be ready?

CEWD is seeking community colleges to pilot the program in advance of receiving accreditation. The course can be offered in a semester long format or bootcamp style beginning January 2011. If your institution is interested in the pilot, please contact CEWD Educational Consultant, Valerie Taylor at [valerie@cewd.org](mailto:valerie@cewd.org). Once the pilot is complete, the program will be submitted to ANSI and is expected to receive accreditation the summer of 2011. The first classes to potentially earn the credential are slated to begin with the fall semester 2011.

## How many credits will it be worth?

The course will be submitted to the American Council on Education (ACE) for a credit recommendation review immediately following the pilot, with a credit recommendation expected before the fall 2011 semester begins.

## What are the costs involved?

CEWD is committed to providing the course materials for a very low cost. The fees associated with the certificate will come into play when students take the assessment to earn the credential. While the price has not been set yet, it is expected to be comparable to similar programs.