

Energy Workforce Sector Strategy (EWSS) Executive Committee Meeting March 25,2014 at PG&E's Pacific Energy Center Meeting Minutes

Participants

In Person:

Catherine Ayers – Foothill College & Bay Area Community Colleges
Gerry Bernstein – City College of San Francisco
Jim Caldwell – Workforce Incubator
Sam Jensen-Augustine – PG&E
Lisa Shell – PG&E
J.D. Stack – Workforce Incubator
Ryan Stroupe – PG&E

By Webinar:

Denise Adams – Butte College
Darlene Besst - NECA
Natalie Culver-Dockins – Fresno City College
Brad Hurte – Workforce Incubator
Erik Jensen – California Energy Commission

Presentation and Discussion:

- Lisa Shell opened the meeting and explained the purpose of the meeting was to review Energy Workforce Sector Strategy (EWSS) project 2013 accomplishments and to obtain input on consultant recommendations for the 2014 EWSS Roadmap. She asked participants to each introduce themselves and their organization.
- Lisa explained that PG&E is exploring ways to create career pathway by utilizing PG&E's resource programs. She added that 2015 would be a continuation of 2013-2014 funding for Workforce Education and Training (WE&T). PG&E is planning to develop an EWSS Roadmap for 2014 and 2015.
- Jim Caldwell, CEO of Workforce Incubator, then presented 2013 accomplishments and findings of his team's work investigating PG&E's Workforce Education & Training (WE&T) programs and identifying which programs may be worth considering as priorities for creating linkages with post-secondary education institutions as a way to better collaborate efforts and leverage respective resources. Brad Hurte and J.D. Stack assisted him in the presentation. See the accompanying slide deck for details of the presentation.
- Sam Jensen-Augustine offered input on the Building Enclosures Linkages slide. He specifically said that to address Integrated Design and Construction we need to bring architects, engineers, and contractors together to understand how contracts work differently in ID&C as compared to Design-Build. He added that energy modeling and zero net energy (ZNE) are important as well.

- In response to the Building Performance Linkages slide, Ryan Stroupe added that PG&E has offered building commissioning courses for nine years, as a one year long series of classes. Also, PG&E has seven energy auditing classes on topics such as technology, tools, calculations, and ROI.
- With regard to HVAC, Jim mentioned that Stockton Training Center has classes on commercial QM & QC, Title 24 for contractors, and HVAC technicians.
- Sam commented on the Renewables Linkages slide by saying that the residential courses are directed to loan officers, appraisers, and real estate agents. The appraisers training is done in conjunction with Build-it-Green. The first target group for certification will be loan officers, which is being worked on. He added that the CPUC is interested in how to better assign value of solar to homes.
- Catherine Ayers and Denise Adams asked why CSU, Chico was not listed for its construction management program.
- Darlene Besst suggested that we need to add contractors and acceptance testers for lighting training. Catherine mentioned that Foothill College has an apprenticeship program in conjunction with the JATC.
- The group discussed the relative lack of labor market information (LMI) data for renewables. Gerry said the Solar Energy Industries association (SEIA) has some. Sam recommended that there be a distinction between commercial, residential, and utility scale solar as these are three separate markets. Jim indicated that solar PV is considered part of integrated demand side management (IDSM).
- Jim mentioned that Martyn Dodd webinars on the new 2013 Title 24, which will be directed to college faculty, will be recorded so that they can be accessed by others later on demand.
- Catherine asked if PEC courses and resources are available for faculty. Ryan said they are indeed.
- On Title 24, Ryan said there are many pieces to it. Most people are interested in only part of it. In his opinion on-demand modular instruction may be the best way to address various needs. Catherine agreed. She added that there is still value in Martyn Dodd's 1/2-day training on Title 24, which she has attended.

Open Discussion:

- Ryan pointed out that AB 758 as it is being used here is not completely defined. It is about existing buildings, while ZNE is to a large degree about new buildings. He said, "The real question is in what educational efforts can utilities help and effect the biggest energy savings?"
- Ryan pointed out that CALCTP has an O&M effort underway. IBEW educates stationary engineers. "How will that work?" Jim responded that Local 39 has been invited to the focus group for the CALCTP O&M course.

- Catherine commended everyone involved for having accomplished so much. She suggested that a high-level roadmap for EWSS would be productive. She suggested that presentation slides be sent out to the Advisory Council members prior to the Monday meeting because there was so much information in the slides.
- Darlene asked if there is a strategy for building owners and managers. Jim said yes, he is consulting with Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) regarding the PG&E effort. Ryan added that BOMA San Francisco and BOMA Oakland have been involved in classes targeted to their needs (e.g., financial analysis). Darlene said she has been involved with BOMA Oakland, which has a ZNE Center. Ryan asked that she let PEC staff know if BOMA needs a specific class. Jim mentioned that Bernie Kotler is developing a decision-makers training class on lighting and CALCTP.
- Lisa closed the meeting at noon and said we would send slides to the Advisory Council prior to its meeting. She said that the Don Vial Center Guidance Plan report could be sent as well once it is publicly released, and the final prioritization of programs could be sent later, once finalized.
- The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. with Lisa thanking everyone for their participation and input.

Minutes prepared by J.D. Stack (JD@EmpowerAdvisors.com).