

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2847

To amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to establish an energy efficiency and renewable energy worker training program.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2007

Ms. SOLIS (for herself, Mr. TIERNEY, and Mr. MCNERNEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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## A BILL

To amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to establish an energy efficiency and renewable energy worker training program.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Green Jobs Act of  
5       2007”.

6       **SEC. 2. ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY**  
7       **WORKER TRAINING PROGRAM.**

8       Section 171 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998  
9       (29 U.S.C. 2916) is amended by adding at the end the  
10      following:

1       “(e) ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE EN-  
2       ERGY WORKER TRAINING PROGRAM.—

3               “(1) GRANT PROGRAM.—

4                       “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6  
5                       months after the date of enactment of the  
6                       Green Jobs Act of 2007, the Secretary, in con-  
7                       sultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall es-  
8                       tablish an energy efficiency and renewable en-  
9                       ergy worker training program under which the  
10                      Secretary shall carry out the activities described  
11                      in paragraph (2) to achieve the purposes of this  
12                      subsection.

13                     “(B) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of pro-  
14                     viding assistance and services under the pro-  
15                     gram established under this subsection—

16                               “(i) target populations of eligible indi-  
17                               viduals to be given priority for training  
18                               and other services shall include—

19                                       “(I) veterans, or past and  
20                                       present members of reserve compo-  
21                                       nents of the Armed Forces;

22                                       “(II) workers affected by na-  
23                                       tional energy and environmental pol-  
24                                       icy;

25                                       “(III) unemployed workers;

1 “(IV) individuals, including at-  
2 risk youth, seeking employment path-  
3 ways out of poverty and into economic  
4 self-sufficiency;

5 “(V) formerly incarcerated, adju-  
6 dicated, non-violent offenders; and

7 “(VI) individuals in need of up-  
8 dated training related to the energy  
9 efficiency and renewable energy indus-  
10 tries; and

11 “(ii) energy efficiency and renewable  
12 energy industries eligible to participate in  
13 a program under this subsection include—

14 “(I) the energy-efficient building,  
15 construction, and retrofits industries;

16 “(II) the renewable electric power  
17 industry;

18 “(III) the energy efficient and  
19 advanced drive train vehicle industry;

20 “(IV) the biofuels industry; and

21 “(V) the deconstruction and ma-  
22 terials use industries.

23 “(2) ACTIVITIES.—

24 “(A) NATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAM.—

25 Under the program established under para-

graph (1), the Secretary, acting through the Bureau of Labor Statistics, shall collect and analyze labor market data to track workforce trends resulting from energy-related initiatives carried out under this subsection. Activities carried out under this paragraph shall include—

“(i) linking research and development in renewable energy and energy efficiency technology with the development of standards and curricula for current and future jobs;

“(ii) the tracking and documentation of academic and occupational competencies as well as future skill needs with respect to renewable energy and energy efficiency technology;

“(iii) tracking and documentation of occupational information and workforce training data with respect to renewable energy and energy efficiency technology;

“(iv) assessing new employment and work practices including career ladder and upgrade training as well as high performance work systems;

1 “(v) collaborating with State agencies,  
2 workforce investments boards, industry, or-  
3 ganized labor, and community and non-  
4 profit organizations to disseminate success-  
5 ful innovations for labor market services  
6 and worker training with respect to renew-  
7 able energy and energy efficiency tech-  
8 nology;

9 “(vi) serving as a clearinghouse for  
10 best practices in workforce development,  
11 job placement, and collaborative partner-  
12 ships;

13 “(vii) promoting the establishment of  
14 workforce training initiatives with respect  
15 to renewable energy and energy efficiency  
16 technologies; and

17 “(viii) providing technical assistance  
18 and capacity building to national and state  
19 energy partnerships, including industry  
20 and labor representatives.

21 “(B) NATIONAL ENERGY TRAINING PART-  
22 NERSHIP GRANTS.—

23 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Under the pro-  
24 gram established under paragraph (1), the  
25 Secretary shall award National Energy

1 Training Partnerships Grants on a com-  
2 petitive basis to eligible entities to enable  
3 such entities to carry out national training  
4 that leads to economic self-sufficiency and  
5 to develop an energy efficiency and renew-  
6 able energy industries workforce. Grants  
7 shall be awarded under this subparagraph  
8 so as to ensure geographic diversity with at  
9 least two grants awarded to entities lo-  
10 cated in each of the four Petroleum Ad-  
11 ministration for Defense Districts with no  
12 subdistricts, and at least one grant award-  
13 ed to an entity located in each of the sub-  
14 districts of the Petroleum Administration  
15 for Defense District with subdistricts, as  
16 such districts are established by the Sec-  
17 retary of Energy.

18 “(ii) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to  
19 receive a grant under clause (i), an entity  
20 shall be a non-profit partnership that—

21 “(I) includes the equal participa-  
22 tion of industry, including public or  
23 private employers, and labor organiza-  
24 tions, including joint labor-manage-  
25 ment training programs, and may in-

1 include community-based organizations,  
2 educational institutions, small busi-  
3 nesses, cooperatives, State and local  
4 veterans agencies, and veterans serv-  
5 ice organizations; and

6 “(II) demonstrates—

7 “(aa) experience in imple-  
8 menting and operating worker  
9 skills training and education pro-  
10 grams;

11 “(bb) the ability to identify  
12 and involve in training programs  
13 carried out under this grant, tar-  
14 get populations of workers who  
15 are, or will be engaged in, activi-  
16 ties related to energy efficiency  
17 and renewable energy industries;  
18 and

19 “(cc) the ability to help  
20 workers achieve economic self-  
21 sufficiency.

22 “(iii) ACTIVITIES.—Activities to be  
23 carried out under a grant under this sub-  
24 paragraph may include—

1 “(I) the provision of occupational  
2 skills training, including curriculum  
3 development, on-the-job training, and  
4 classroom training;

5 “(II) the provision of safety and  
6 health training;

7 “(III) the provision of basic  
8 skills, literacy, GED, English as a  
9 second language, and job readiness  
10 training;

11 “(IV) individual referral and tui-  
12 tion assistance for a community col-  
13 lege training program;

14 “(V) the provision of customized  
15 training in conjunction with an exist-  
16 ing registered apprenticeship program  
17 or labor-management partnership;

18 “(VI) the provision of career lad-  
19 der and upgrade training;

20 “(VII) the implementation of  
21 transitional jobs strategies; and

22 “(VIII) the provision of sup-  
23 portive services.



1           “(C) STATE LABOR MARKET RESEARCH,  
2 INFORMATION, AND LABOR EXCHANGE RE-  
3 SEARCH PROGRAM.—

4           “(i) IN GENERAL.—Under the pro-  
5 gram established under paragraph (1), the  
6 Secretary shall award competitive grants to  
7 States to enable such States to administer  
8 labor market and labor exchange informa-  
9 tion programs that include the implemen-  
10 tation of the activities described in clause  
11 (ii).

12          “(ii) ACTIVITIES.—A State shall use  
13 amounts awarded under a grant under this  
14 subparagraph to provide funding to the  
15 State agency that administers the Wagner-  
16 Peyser Act and State unemployment com-  
17 pensation programs to carry out the fol-  
18 lowing activities using State agency merit  
19 staff:

20           “(I) The identification of job  
21 openings in the renewable energy and  
22 energy efficiency sector.

23           “(II) The administration of skill  
24 and aptitude testing and assessment  
25 for workers.

1 “(III) The counseling, case man-  
2 agement, and referral of qualified job  
3 seekers to openings and training pro-  
4 grams, including energy efficiency and  
5 renewable energy training programs.

6 “(D) STATE ENERGY TRAINING PARTNER-  
7 SHIP PROGRAM.—

8 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Under the pro-  
9 gram established under paragraph (1), the  
10 Secretary shall award competitive grants to  
11 States to enable such States to administer  
12 renewable energy and energy efficiency  
13 workforce development programs that in-  
14 clude the implementation of the activities  
15 described in clause (ii).

16 “(ii) ACTIVITIES.—

17 “(I) IN GENERAL.—A State shall  
18 use amounts awarded under a grant  
19 under this subparagraph to award  
20 competitive grants to eligible State  
21 Energy Sector Partnerships to enable  
22 such Partnerships to coordinate with  
23 existing apprenticeship and labor  
24 management training programs and  
25 implement training programs that

1 lead to the economic self-sufficiency of  
2 trainees.

3 “(II) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligi-  
4 ble to receive a grant under this sub-  
5 paragraph, a State Energy Sector  
6 Partnership shall—

7 “(aa) consist of non-profit  
8 organizations that include equal  
9 participation from industry, in-  
10 cluding public or private non-  
11 profit employers, and labor orga-  
12 nizations, including joint labor-  
13 management training programs,  
14 and may include representatives  
15 from local governments, worker  
16 investment agency one-stop ca-  
17 reer centers, community based  
18 organizations, community col-  
19 leges, and other post-secondary  
20 institutions, small businesses, co-  
21 operatives, State and local vet-  
22 erans agencies, and veterans  
23 service organizations;

24 “(bb) demonstrate experi-  
25 ence in implementing and oper-

1           ating worker skills training and  
2           education programs; and

3                   “(cc) demonstrate the ability  
4           to identify and involve in training  
5           programs, target populations of  
6           workers who are, or will be en-  
7           gaged in, activities related to en-  
8           ergy efficiency and renewable en-  
9           ergy industries.

10                   “(iii) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants  
11           under this subparagraph, the Secretary  
12           shall give priority to States that dem-  
13           onstrate that activities under the grant—

14                   “(I) meet national energy policies  
15           associated with energy efficiency, re-  
16           newable energy, and the reduction of  
17           emissions of greenhouse gases; and

18                   “(II) meet State energy policies  
19           associated with energy efficiency, re-  
20           newable energy, and the reduction of  
21           emissions of greenhouse gases.

22                   “(iv) COORDINATION.—A grantee  
23           under this subparagraph shall coordinate  
24           activities carried out under the grant with  
25           existing apprenticeship and labor manage-

1           ment training programs and implement  
2           training programs that lead to the eco-  
3           nomic self-sufficiency of trainees, including  
4           providing—

5                   “(I) outreach and recruitment  
6                   services, in coordination with the ap-  
7                   propriate State agency;

8                   “(II) occupational skills training,  
9                   including curriculum development, on-  
10                  the-job training, and classroom train-  
11                  ing;

12                  “(III) safety and health training;

13                  “(IV) basic skills, literacy, GED,  
14                  English as a second language, and job  
15                  readiness training;

16                  “(V) individual referral and tui-  
17                  tion assistance for a community col-  
18                  lege training program;

19                  “(VI) customized training in con-  
20                  junction with an existing registered  
21                  apprenticeship program or labor-man-  
22                  agement partnership;

23                  “(VII) career ladder and upgrade  
24                  training;

1 “(VIII) services under transi-  
2 tional jobs strategies; and

3 “(IX) supportive services.

4 “(E) PATHWAYS OUT OF POVERTY DEM-  
5 ONSTRATION PROGRAM.—

6 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Under the pro-  
7 gram established under paragraph (1), the  
8 Secretary shall award at least 10 competi-  
9 tive grants to eligible entities to enable  
10 such entities to carry out training that  
11 leads to economic self-sufficiency. The Sec-  
12 retary shall give priority to entities that  
13 serve individuals in families with income of  
14 less than 200 percent of the poverty  
15 threshold (as determined by the Bureau of  
16 the Census) or a self-sufficiency standard  
17 for the local areas where the training is  
18 conducted that specifies the income needs  
19 of families, by family size, the number and  
20 ages of children in the family, and sub-  
21 State geographical considerations. Grants  
22 shall be awards to ensure geographic diver-  
23 sity.

1 “(ii) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eli-  
2 gible to receive a grant an entity shall be  
3 a partnership that—

4 “(I) includes community-based  
5 non-profit organizations and edu-  
6 cational institutions with expertise in  
7 serving low-income adults or youth,  
8 public or private employers from the  
9 industry sectors described in para-  
10 graph (1)(B)(ii), labor organizations  
11 representing workers in such industry  
12 sectors;

13 “(II) demonstrates experience in  
14 implementing and operating worker  
15 skills training and education pro-  
16 grams; and

17 “(III) demonstrates the ability to  
18 recruit individuals for training and to  
19 support such individuals to successful  
20 completion in training programs car-  
21 ried out under this grant, targeting  
22 populations of workers who are or will  
23 be engaged in activities related to en-  
24 ergy efficiency and renewable energy  
25 industries.

1                   “(iii) PRIORITIES.—In awarding  
2 grants under this paragraph, the Secretary  
3 shall give priority to applicants that—

4                   “(I) target programs to benefit  
5 low-income workers, unemployed  
6 youth and adults, high school drop-  
7 outs, or other underserved sectors of  
8 the workforce within areas of high  
9 poverty;

10                  “(II) ensure that supportive serv-  
11 ices are integrated with education and  
12 training, and delivered by organiza-  
13 tions with direct access to and experi-  
14 ence with targeted populations;

15                  “(III) leverage additional public  
16 and private resources to fund training  
17 programs, including cash or in-kind  
18 matches from participating employers;

19                  “(IV) involve employers and  
20 labor organizations in the determina-  
21 tion of relevant skills and com-  
22 petencies and ensure that the certifi-  
23 cates or credentials that result from  
24 the training are employer-recognized;



1 “(V) deliver courses at alter-  
2 native times (such as evening and  
3 weekend programs) and locations  
4 most convenient and accessible to par-  
5 ticipants; and

6 “(VI) link adult remedial edu-  
7 cation with occupational skills train-  
8 ing.

9 “(iv) ACTIVITIES.—Activities to be  
10 carried out may include—

11 “(I) outreach, recruitment, career  
12 guidance, counseling, and case man-  
13 agement services;

14 “(II) occupational skills training,  
15 on-the-job training, customized train-  
16 ing, and classroom training;

17 “(III) supportive services;

18 “(IV) basic skills, literacy, GED,  
19 English as a second language, and job  
20 readiness training;

21 “(V) career ladder and upgrade  
22 training; and

23 “(VI) transitional jobs strategies.

1           “(v) DATA COLLECTION.—Grantees  
2 shall collect and report the following infor-  
3 mation:

4           “(I) The number of participants.

5           “(II) The demographic character-  
6 istics of participants, including race,  
7 gender, age, parenting status, partici-  
8 pation in other Federal programs,  
9 education and literacy level at entry,  
10 significant barriers to employment  
11 (such as limited English proficiency,  
12 criminal record, addiction or mental  
13 health problem requiring treatment,  
14 or mental disability).

15           “(III) The services received by  
16 participants, including training, edu-  
17 cation, and supportive services.

18           “(IV) The amount of program  
19 spending per participant.

20           “(V) Program completion rates.

21           “(VI) Other factors determined  
22 as significantly interfering with pro-  
23 gram participation or completion.

1 “(VII) The rate of Job placement  
2 and the rate of employment retention  
3 after 1 year.

4 “(VIII) The average wage at  
5 placement, including any benefits, and  
6 the rate of average wage increase  
7 after 1 year.

8 “(IX) Any post-employment sup-  
9 portive services provided.

10 The Secretary shall assist grantees in the  
11 collection of data under this clause by  
12 making available, where practicable, low-  
13 cost means of tracking the labor market  
14 outcomes of participants.

15 “(3) WORKER PROTECTIONS AND NON-  
16 DISCRIMINATION REQUIREMENTS.—

17 “(A) APPLICATION OF WIA.—The provi-  
18 sions of sections 181 and 188 of the Workforce  
19 Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2931 and  
20 2938) shall apply to all programs carried out  
21 with assistance under this subsection.

22 “(B) CONSULTATION WITH LABOR ORGANI-  
23 ZATIONS.—If a labor organization represents a  
24 substantial number of workers who are engaged  
25 in similar work or training in an area that is

1           the same as the area that is proposed to be  
2           funded under this Act, the labor organization  
3           shall be provided an opportunity to be consulted  
4           and to submit comments in regard to such a  
5           proposal.

6           “(4) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after  
7           the date of enactment of the Green Jobs Act of  
8           2007, the Secretary shall transmit a report to Con-  
9           gress on the training program established by this  
10          subsection. The report shall include a description of  
11          the entities receiving funding and the activities car-  
12          ried out by such entities, and an assessment of the  
13          results achieved by the program.

14          “(5) DEFINITION.—As used in this subsection,  
15          the term ‘renewable energy’ has the meaning given  
16          such term in section 203(b)(2) of the Energy Policy  
17          Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–58).

18          “(6) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
19          There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
20          this subsection, \$125,000,000 for each fiscal years,  
21          of which—

22                  “(A) not to exceed 20 percent of the  
23                  amount appropriated in each such fiscal year  
24                  shall be made available for, and shall be equally  
25                  divided between, national labor market research

1           and information under paragraph (2)(A) and  
2           State labor market information and labor ex-  
3           change research under paragraph (2)(C);

4           “(B) 20 percent shall be dedicated to  
5           Pathways Out of Poverty Demonstration Pro-  
6           grams under paragraph (2)(E); and

7           “(C) the remainder shall be divided equally  
8           between National Energy Partnership Training  
9           Grants under paragraph (2)(B) and State en-  
10          ergy training partnership grants under para-  
11          graph (2)(D).”.

○