



**The Laborers International Union of North America, Local 55, in partnership with the Garden State Alliance for a New Economy (GANE) Weatherization and Residential Retrofit Program Newark, NJ**

The Laborers and the Garden State Alliance launched a weatherization and green jobs training program for inner-city residents of Newark, New Jersey, in January 2009, aiming to recruit people who have had trouble finding ongoing work. It was response to President Obama’s campaign call for weatherizing a million homes in the larger context of creating jobs that tackle global warming. The Newark weatherization program’s first class began in March with 25 participants. During the 6-week course, participants will weatherize homes of 30 low-income seniors in Newark.

This case study is current as of April 2009. For more information, visit <http://ganenj.org/article.php?id=57>. You can also contact LIUNA Organizer Dave Johnson, [dave.organizer@worldnet.att.net](mailto:dave.organizer@worldnet.att.net); or LIUNA Organizer Wayne Richardson, [wayne-richardson@hotmail.com](mailto:wayne-richardson@hotmail.com).

<p><b>Training methodology</b></p>	<p>The six weeks are a mixture of classroom and hands-on training designed to prepare participants with job readiness and job skills in weatherization and residential construction. The six weeks include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 week of training in life skills and professional behavior</li> <li>2 weeks of OSHA hazardous waste training</li> <li>1 week of general construction training,</li> <li>2 weeks of “green” training in weatherization and energy efficiency techniques and basic residential green construction.</li> </ul> <p>Skills taught in these two weeks include performing energy audits, sealing air leaks with caulking, applying weather stripping around doors, wrapping pipes and hot water heaters and applying fiberglass insulation. More advanced energy efficiency tasks are taught in the second week, including maintaining safe electrical systems and installing weather tight doors. The curriculum was developed by New Jersey Building Laborers’ Training Fund staff.</p>
<p><b>Participants and how recruited</b></p>	<p>The first class consists of 25 Newark residents from communities of color. A member of the Laborers’ union joined each weatherization team so that each house had an experienced construction worker on site. Recruitment is handled by GANE and the City of Newark</p>

**This case study is meant to give a snapshot of the program profiled here. For the most up to date information on this program, please visit their website**

	working with local clergy and community groups.
<b>Green program from the outset?</b>	From the beginning this program was conceived as a response to President Obama's call for good, living wage jobs in green environmental fields.
<b>Length and frequency of training</b>	Six weeks of training. Plan is to launch 25 training sessions during the next 18 months.
<b>Include on-the-job training or paid apprenticeships?</b>	Participants get stipends of \$100 per week. However, it is not on-the-job training.
<b>Funding</b>	The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences provided \$90,000 for the first group of trainees through a Hazardous Waste Worker Training Program. Future funding will be sought from Dept. of Labor's Green Jobs Act appropriation, from the Laborers International and union membership dues. Also may seek funding from New Jersey utilities.
<b>Key relationships</b>	GANE and the Laborers are seeking relationships with employers that do weatherization work and with community colleges. They hope to develop relations with several government agencies including New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, which expects to receive weatherization assistance money from the federal Economic Recovery & Reinvestment Act.
<b>Eligibility</b>	Applicants must take a drug test and a "work keys" test in 10 <sup>th</sup> grade math and English before beginning the training.
<b>Credentials</b>	Successful participants complete the program with certificates in OSHA, HAZMAT and a Weatherization certificate that states they are trained in either energy auditing, basic home weatherization or advanced training in insulation, door & window replacement, changing appliances.
<b>Placement and follow-up services</b>	Will use Laborers' membership database to track participants and their job placement successes.