



**Philadelphia Green Jobs Corps
Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA**

The Sustainable Business Network Foundation (SBN) is designing a city-wide green jobs apprenticeship program. The Philadelphia Green Jobs Corps will aim to match basic skills training with employers' needs and strive to ultimately connect local green employers to the region's workforce. The SBN is meeting with employers and labor groups to identify skill sets, employment obstacles, and advancement tracks for regional jobs. The Job Corps will be designed to be a pipeline for placing workers into positions.

The Green Economy Task Force is an alliance of 100 businesses, environmental groups, government, academic institutions, workforce development providers, and unions and is advising the development of the Green Job Corps. SBN is also convening a green employer roundtable to match the design of the training program to the skills employers are looking for.

This case study is current as of May 2009. For more information, visit <http://www.sbnphiladelphia.org> or contact Kate Houstoun, kate@sbnphiladelphia.org.

Timeline	<p>SBN received a Knight Foundation grant in mid-2008 and started thinking about setting standards for training programs that will bring people out of poverty. The Philadelphia Green Job Corps is in the planning and development phase. SBN envisions a network of existing job training providers who might transition to green jobs training. SBN also hopes to put out a blueprint for incorporating green jobs into existing training programs in April and will be convening a business roundtable soon (see below).</p> <p>Also through a grant from the Knight Foundation, the Energy Coordinating Agency (a Green Economy Task Force member) is rehabbing a warehouse in North Philadelphia that will serve as a training center for weatherization and retrofitting residential buildings in low-income communities throughout the city.</p>
Region	The Green Jobs Corps will serve the immediate Philadelphia area.
Objective	SBN's goal is to act as a mediator by setting strong standards for operators of training programs and to ensure that there are high standards for employer practices and the environment in RFPs

**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**

	<p>for Department of Labor funding for green jobs. SBN's priorities on labor standards include creating jobs that bring family-sustaining wages, health benefits, and safety standards that protect workers in work that improves the environment.</p> <p>SBN also hopes to expand resources for workforce programs that serve single adults who aren't eligible for government income support or welfare-to-work or would not be able to access existing job training programs because they are in a shelter or exiting prison. They are interested in extending existing programs and expanding programs that serve underserved populations.</p>
Partners/Allies	SBN has worked with employers and labor groups to identify skill sets, employment obstacles, and advancement tracks for regional jobs. Partners in the job training program include existing job training providers, the Workforce Investment Board, the Workforce Development Corporation, the Mayor's office of Sustainability, and Community College of Philadelphia.
Constituents	Philadelphians with barriers to employment such as lack of work history, lack of education, lack of housing, unemployment, and criminal backgrounds.
What is the source of capital/financing?	The Knight Foundation has awarded a \$125,000 planning grant to SBN to develop the Green Jobs Corps.
Outcomes	The Green Economic Task Force is an advisory board for creating a Green Job Corps. SBN has brought together a diverse alliance of 100 stakeholder groups to advise the development of the Green Job Corps representing businesses, environmental groups, workforce development providers. The job training committee of the Green Economic Task Force is putting together a blueprint for how to educate existing job-training providers and how to give them an incentive to transition to green jobs and weatherization training. SBN will also be convening a series of employer roundtables to determine industry-specific employer needs. These will drive the design of incentives for training providers. SBN hopes to set up learning communities between training providers, private industry partners, funding partners, and city government.
Challenges	The recent challenge has been responding to the rapidly changing economic climate and funding environment. A year ago, when

	<p>SBN first convened the Task Force, there wasn't a reliable funding stream for transitioning job training programs to "green collar" training programs. So SBN focused on private foundations to fund the research and curriculum-building. Now, because of the stimulus, there are several potential funding streams and several large institutions are conducting research. Further, in the midst of historic unemployment rates, there is concern that stimulus dollars will be delivered through the traditional systems without any guarantee of employment. SBN is shifting its scope to coordinate city-wide "green collar" initiatives, fill the research gaps, and create a blueprint to elevate standards for a growing sea of "green collar" job training programs.</p>
Reflections	<p>SBN's main objective for the stimulus package is to make sure that the RFPs consider environmental sustainability and fair labor practices. SBN would also like to ensure that stimulus funds are used to create linkages between job training and actual employment and that there is transparency and accountability in how they are spent. SBN will most likely try to accomplish this through an advisory role on review committees and in Department of Labor decisions, especially on youth and adult job training and welfare-to-work programs.</p>