



Building Montana's
WIND ENERGY
workforce statewide:

- MSU-Great Falls COT
- MSU Billings COT
- MSU-Northern
- Montana Tech COT
- MSU-Bozeman - WAC
- MSU-Extension

Wind Montana Project

Developing a Sustainable Energy Workforce

A workforce development project funded by the Department of Labor's Community-Based Jobs Training Grant Program and project partners.

Description of Project

Wind Montana is a statewide, capacity-building project for programs in Sustainable Energy Technology (SET) and Industrial Technology, establishing programs in sustainable energy at Great Falls College MSU, City College at MSU Billings, MSU Northern, and Highlands College of Montana Tech. The project's focus has been to enroll students and track their progress; prepare curriculum materials and expertise for exportation; and develop and integrate an early college program in industrial technology.

Targeted Group

The target group served by Wind Montana is underemployed/unemployed workers and secondary/postsecondary students interested in energy production and related fields.

Sustainable Energy: Project Working Definition

Conventional Energy	(coal, oil, natural gas, nuclear)
+ Renewable Energy	(hydro, wind, solar, geothermal, tidal)
+ Wise-Use/Conservation	(energy and environmentally efficient practices)
= Sustainable Energy	(more energy, longer, for more people, w/ least environmental & economic impact)

Budget

The Wind Montana budget was \$1.97 million from the Department of Labor (DOL) and approximately \$600K in leveraged resources. The total funding of slightly over \$2.5 million was spread over 4 years, or approximately \$150K per campus per year.

Timeline

Grant funding was originally for the period of February 2009 to February 2012. A one-year, no-cost extension (to February 14, 2013) was granted last year, largely due to the need to find and train instructors and obtain equipment to build capacity for the training programs.

Project Development

Project Year 1 was dedicated to reviewing, developing and adapting curricula, and securing program approvals. Students began enrolling in Year 2, the fall semester of 2011. They required one year to complete the Certificate of Applied Science (CAS) and two years to complete the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree for Sustainable Energy Technician (SET). The first AAS graduates received their degrees in the spring of 2012. As of the spring semester 2012 end date, 39 SET students had received degrees or certificates based on data provided by OCHE.

Projected Training Outcomes

The project predicted that 120 students would complete the program by the summer of 2012.

Capacity Building Objectives (per Grant Statement of Work)

Objectives were to:

- increase the number of wind-technician training programs in Montana from zero to four by 2010;
- increase the number of instate wind-technician faculty from none to four by 2010;
- increase the enrollment capacity of four campuses by 100 students/year; and
- add equipment, increasing each campus' capacity for delivering trades programming.

Training Results to date: Students Served

We have served 112 students on 4 partner campuses since the start of the SET programs:

- 107 were male, 5 were female.
- 20 of the total number were eligible veterans.
- 9 were persons with disabilities.

The 112 students were all SET majors. There were students on some campuses, such as at Northern, who took some SET classes but were not SET majors. For example, Northern reported 26 non-SET students in SET classes for the period ending June 2012.

Employment data are starting to become available:

- 5 graduates have reported employment.
- 1 has reported entering training-related employment.

Employment reporting is voluntary, but encouraged. Partner campuses can provide campus-specific data on request.

Project Partners

Montana State Workforce Investment Board
Montana Department of Labor and Industry
Job Service Region 2- regional One-Stop Centers in Great Falls, Cut Bank, Havre, Shelby and Lewistown
Great Falls College MSU
MSU Northern
City College of MSU Billings
Highlands College of Montana Tech
Centralia (Washington) College
Invenergy
Western Community Energy
Great Falls Development Authority
Great Falls Public Schools
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education
MSU Wind Application Center
MSU Extension Services
Energy Systems Technology and Education Training Center (ESTEC)
Opportunity Link
Rural Dynamics, Inc.
Montana Chamber of Commerce
Blackfeet Manpower & Many Friends One-Stop Center
Governor Brian Schweitzer

Industry Advisory Board

International-in-scope, vested in Montana, a 21-member (by invitation) industry advisory board initiated at the beginning of the Project to provide industry focus to the curriculum development and implementation, and to support overall capacity-building effort. The Board's organizational members include:

IngeteamUSA
Gaelectric North America
Montana Dakota Utilities
NorthWestern Energy
Endurance Wind Power
Invenergy
General Electric
PPL Montana
NaturEnerUSA & Canada
Fuhrlander North America
Tonbridge Power Montana/Alberta Tie Ltd.
Grasslands Renewable Energy
Pascoe Energy
Oversight Resources LLC
Exergy Development Group LLC
TransCanada Corporation
John Deere Wind Energy
Sansur Renewable Energy, Inc
Chapin LLC
Montana Wind Resources LLC