



Industry Partnerships in Pennsylvania

3 Rivers Clean Energy Partnership

Southwestern Pennsylvania is a major center for the energy industry, including power generation and the more than one thousand companies producing the goods and services that support generation. However, the region is currently struggling with a workforce shortage due to the combined factors of aging workers, compounded by job growth. Over the next decade, the region will have a higher rate of job openings resulting from retirements than any other region in the U.S.

The 3 Rivers Clean Energy Partnership is network of companies and organizations from key energy sectors in the region that have come together to develop and implement strategies to deliver more trained workers faster. The partnership acts as an umbrella effort incorporating economic development, training, research and education to focus all of the region's available resources on developing a highly skilled workforce for the energy industry.

The International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 95, is a key component of the partnership offering training in the areas of green building, energy conservation and energy efficiency. IUOE, Local 95 is a leader in the nation for energy-specific workforce training.

MAKING AN IMPACT

The 3 Rivers Clean Energy Partnership is just a year old, but has already played a key role in coordinating efforts to better understand the opportunities available through the energy industry in southwestern Pennsylvania. And while the IUOE, Local 95, energy industry training has occurred for the last three years, it is now a key player within the partnership and will continue its work to train the region's workforce for the energy industry's emerging careers.

Partnership and training highlights:

- Under the 3 Rivers Clean Energy Partnership a skills gap analysis was conducted that included outreach to thousands of different employers.
- Local community colleges have partnered with their local workforce investment boards, through an initiative known as the Regional Workforce Collaborative, to use the data from the gap analysis to create an energy industry manual that will direct workers toward energy-related careers.
- An energy industry workforce summit was convened and included more than 140 representatives of industry, education, workforce development, government, foundations and other stakeholders who worked to identify workforce issues and recommend solutions. As a result of the summit, the partnership placed a high priority on the need for additional emphasis on skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM. The partnership intends to promote STEM principles as a means of filling the worker pipeline with qualified, skilled workers.
- The IUOE, Local 95, has trained more than 500 people, over the last three years, through green building operator training, energy conservation training – including Energy Star certification – and on-site energy efficiency training.

The partnership is focused on continuing its efforts by:

- Building a robust pipeline of trained workers
- Enhancing the skills of the existing workforce
- Supporting the advancement of workers into senior and supervisory positions
- Improving retention

For more information on the 3 Rivers Clean Energy Partnership, contact:

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