

For Immediate Release
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More than \$1.1 million Approved through Energizing Careers Program *10 Ohio Companies to benefit from green energy jobs training*

Columbus – The Ohio Department of Development has approved more than \$1.1 million in Energizing Careers Program grants for 10 Ohio companies to assist in training workers in advanced energy technologies.

The program is made possible through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act State Energy Sector Partnership Training program, funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. The Ohio Department of Development's Workforce and Talent Division administers the Energizing Careers Program to assist companies that are manufacturing components for the wind, solar, and biomass industries. The program reimburses the cost of training up to \$6,000 for full-time employees. Preferential project funding is given to companies located in 44 Ohio counties impacted by the restructuring of the automotive industry, as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor.

"The future of our economy is advanced energy manufacturing and our workforce must keep up with the demands of the marketplace," said Christiane Schmenk, Director of the Ohio Department of Development. "These training dollars will benefit incumbent workers, as well as allow new employees to be hired."

AP Alternatives, LLC – City of Ridgeville Corners (Henry County)
Trainees: 20 New, 15 Incumbent
Grant Amount: \$210,000

AP Alternatives is a start-up company owned by the David VonDeylen family, who also own Alex Products, Inc. AP Alternatives purchases products from Alex Products, which are in turn used to assemble and install solar mounting systems. The current product lines include modular solar racking with automated installation equipment and commercial seating systems. Alex Products is designing, building, and operating automated equipment to assemble the solar panel cartridges. Alex Product also designed, built, and automated installation equipment which was then sold to AP Alternatives.

Applied Energy Technologies – City of Maumee (Lucas County)
Trainees: 35 New
Grant Amount: \$180,000

Applied Energy Technologies (AET) is a leading global provider of solar mounting solutions. AET designs, engineers, and manufactures solar mounting solutions for all types of solar installation.

ARGO-HYTOS – Bowling Green (Wood County)
Trainees: 2 New, 17 Incumbent
Grant Amount: \$100,200

ARGO-HYTOS designs customized manifolds, valve assemblies, and power packs, as well as filtration solutions and hydraulic-tank solutions to meet the specific needs of customers in the wind energy market.

JMS Composites – City of Springfield (Clark County)

Trainees: 17 New, 15 Incumbent

Grant Amount: \$18,000

JMS Composites is a custom fiberglass parts manufacturer. The company can handle a range of job requirements from ornate and intricate products to fiberglass structures as large as 40 feet tall, with the capability to run sizes from low-volume prototypes to high-volume production.

Marathon Special Products – Bowling Green (Wood County)

Trainees: 120 Incumbent

Grant Amount: \$250,600

Marathon Special Products is a manufacturing company that designs and produces electrical wiring devices. Currently, the company is working on numerous solar power integration components, wind power connections, and wind circuit protection devices.

Northern State Metals – City of Youngstown (Mahoning County)

Trainees: 15 New, 40 Incumbent

Grant Amount: \$101,535

Northern States Metals (NSM) is a supplier of aluminum and steel products. The company supplies the solar industry with the patent-pending solar FlexRack. The racks are designed, fabricated, and assembled on sight to fit industry solar panels.

POET Biorefining – City of Fostoria (Seneca County)

Trainees: 43 Incumbent

Grant Amount: \$43,371

POET Biorefining is a state-of-the-art ethanol production facility that will consume 22 million bushels of locally-grown corn to produce 68 million gallons of ethanol annually. This site provides a high performance, environmentally-friendly fuel, as well as premium, high-quality Dakota Gold brand livestock feed for regional, national, and international markets.

Pro-Pak Industries – City of Maumee (Lucas County)

Trainees: 3 New, 23 Incumbent

Grant Amount: \$156,000

Pro-Pak Industries has expanded its operations to serve as an alternative energy supplier to First Solar and Willard & Kelsey; two renowned Northwest Ohio manufacturers of solar panels. The company is partnering with these manufacturers on the design, manufacturing, and assembly of packaging.

Starr Manufacturing International Inc. – City of Vienna (Trumbull County)

Trainees: 4 New, 16 Incumbent

Grant Amount: \$75,800

Starr Manufacturing Inc., produces custom industrial equipment and machinery for a diverse range of industries, with a core competence in medium to heavy industrial application in markets such as: mining, material handling, energy, and machine/equipment manufacturers. The company's primary operations include metal burning, sawing, bending, welding, machining, assembly, and installation. Starr Manufacturing is partnering with Weiss Environmental, which designs and produces electrostatic precipitators and other equipment and machinery that utilize biomass to produce biofuels. Starr Manufacturing is fabricating and machining parts for Weiss for use in schools and production facilities.

TecnoSunSolar USA – City of Toledo (Lucas County)

Trainees: 12 New, 1 Incumbent

Grant Amount: \$49,400

TecnoSunSolar produces solutions for modern energy opportunities, such as the patented Dual Axis Tracker designed to precisely follow the movement of the sun and thus maximize solar panel output. The tracking systems increase solar panel output by 20 – 40 percent while minimizing operating costs. TecnoSunSolar's intelligent control system collects real-time atmospheric data to optimize operating efficiency while re-positioning trackers and solar modules during severe weather conditions.

For more information, visit ohioworkforceboard.org/ARRAPrograms.htm.

*The **Workforce and Talent Division** provides financial assistance and technical resources for customized training involving employees of new and expanding Ohio businesses. The Division also supports community economic development efforts through job creation and retention. The result is increased employee productivity, improved labor/management relations, and a highly skilled labor pool.*

*Working with our partners across business, state and local governments, academia, and the nonprofit sector, the **Ohio Department of Development** works to attract, create, grow, and retain businesses through competitive incentives and targeted investments. Engaged every day in marketing, innovating, investing, and collaborating, the **Ohio Department of Development** works at the speed of business to accelerate and support the teamwork that is necessary for success by providing financial, informational, and technical assistance to those making an investment in Ohio's future.*

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