

- U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin -
***The Grants for Renewable Energy Education for
the Nation (GREEN) Act***

In order to create a “Made in Wisconsin” economy that is built to last, we must invest in job training and workforce readiness for clean energy jobs.

Strengthening Our Clean Energy Economy

The clean energy sector has grown nearly twice as fast as the overall economy. The clean energy industries have proved to create jobs faster than other industries, producing employment growth for workers with or without a college degree. The jobs created in the clean energy field pay better than the average American job, with compensation rates 13 percent higher than the national average. Today, over three million Americans are employed in the growing “green-collar” workforce, including clean energy and sustainability, which is more than the amount of people working in the fossil fuel industry, and twice as many as those employed in the biotech industry.

In many instances, while the technologies to support the sustainability industry have been or are being created, the industry lacks the skilled workforce necessary to implement and use these technologies. To some capacity, the need for human capital is proving to be a barrier to the continued growth and expansion in energy efficiency and sustainability. By strengthening our investments in job training and workforce readiness for “green collar” jobs, we will help businesses grow our clean energy economy.

Investing in Job Training and Workforce Readiness

Career and technical education (CTE) offers secondary and post-secondary students with the skills and experience to engage with these “green-collar” jobs in a range of sustainable energy career options. CTE programs also provide the education and training necessary to ensure that our nation’s workforce is prepared for the green jobs of the future.

A number of technical colleges and high schools across the country have started to offer this type of exploration and integration of sustainability concepts with their CTE programs. For example, in Wisconsin, Lakeshore Technical College offers a Wind Energy Technology program to prepare students to install, test, service, and repair wind turbine components. Northeast Wisconsin Technical College’s Energy Management Technology program prepares students with the skills and knowledge needed to enter and advance in the field of energy management. At the high school level, Green Bay Southwest High School has instituted a special renewable and sustainable energy course that is linked to degree programs in solar energy and solar management. In Wisconsin Rapids, Mid-State Technical College’s Thermal Energy Technician program prepares students to design, install, operate, and maintain solar, geothermal, and biomass heating systems for both residential and commercial applications. Milwaukee Area Technical College offers an Associate’s Degree in Sustainable Facilities and a certificate program in Energy Engineering Technology.

Growing Green Collar Opportunities

The GREEN Act fulfills a key need by creating a bridge between secondary and postsecondary schools so that students can transition from high school with technical knowledge that will be expanded and honed in a postsecondary environment. The bill allocates competitive grant funding for clean energy career and technical training programs. Post-secondary institutions, local education agencies, career and technical schools, and community partners will use the grants to enter into partnerships to develop these training programs. The bill also provides opportunities for technical schools to upgrade their own energy systems to serve as model training facilities.

- U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin -
***The Grants for Renewable Energy Education for
the Nation (GREEN) Act***

Wisconsin Support for the Grants for Renewable Energy Education for the Nation Act

Over the past several years, Wisconsin's technical colleges have created cutting edge sustainability programs in areas like wind, solar and geothermal. We've also "greened" our remaining curriculum by including sustainability concepts in sectors including agriculture, construction and health care. The *GREEN Act* supports and advances this work in a ground-breaking way.

Morna Foy, President
Wisconsin Technical College System

This initiative recognizes the key "hands on" role our technical colleges play through cutting edge technology and facilities. It helps us "walk the walk" using tomorrow's infrastructure and technology today. We can't train tomorrow's leaders with yesterday's technology. It also makes us more efficient as colleges. The partnership aspect between our colleges, K-12 schools and industry and community partners reflect the exact approach and investments we need to thrive in renewable, clean and new energy.

Paul Gabriel, Executive Director
Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association

We appreciate Senator Baldwin's leadership in proposing funding for education and training that will prepare Americans for clean energy careers. The proposed *GREEN Act* is an innovative approach to ensure the workforce is prepared for jobs in emerging technologies. Milwaukee Area Technical College is committed to continue to develop academic programs that enable Wisconsin residents to pursue these growing career opportunities.

Dr. Michael L. Burke, President
Milwaukee Area Technical College

Lakeshore Technical College already has nationally recognized energy programs, including Wind Energy and Nuclear Technology. *GREEN Act* legislation will help students to explore careers in this field and allow them to earn college credit while in high school. Subsequently, they enter the workforce more quickly and it is another solution to solving the skilled worker shortage.

Dr. Michael Lanser, President
Lakeshore Technical College

I applaud Senator Baldwin's proposed *GREEN Act* legislation. The encouragement of high schools and technical colleges to work together to prepare tomorrow's sustainability workforce could not be more timely. We know that education beyond high school is essential to earning a family sustaining wage. I am particularly appreciative of the proposed funding to allow the nation's career and technical colleges to use funds to demonstrate sustainability principals through the implementation of sustainable energy production and conservation projects on their campuses.

Dr. H. Jeffrey Rafn, President
Northeast Wisconsin Technical College

This federal investment in career and technical education (CTE) complements existing efforts and strengths of Mid-State Technical College and the Wisconsin Technical College System.

Dr. Sue Budjac, President
Mid-State Technical College

Wisconsin Support for the Grants for Renewable Energy Education for the Nation Act

The Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA), a nationally accredited training institution and U.S. Department of Energy Regional Training Provider for the Solar Instructor Training Network, has been offering renewable energy technician training since 1992. The MREA supports Senator Baldwin's *GREEN Act* because we know first-hand the value of hands-on training and the importance of collaboration between training institutions. These collaborations help to ensure that the United States maintains a workforce that is ready for the clean energy jobs of today and tomorrow.

Midwest Renewable Energy Association, Wisconsin

There has been and will continue to be great opportunity to meet growing energy demands through energy efficiency and renewable energy across our country. To meet these needs, expanding a skilled workforce of clean energy experts will be crucial. Senator Baldwin's bill will do just that—provide access to education and job training programs that will help prepare people for jobs that are and will increasingly be available. I am proud to be part of an industry that helps deliver short and long term economic and environmental benefits to consumers and business and thrilled to see such well-written and thought through legislation.

Mary Schlaefter, President and CEO

Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation

RENEW Wisconsin supports the *GREEN Act* to better equip our nation's high school students with the knowledge and skills to succeed in the ever-expanding clean energy and sustainability workforce. Clean energy represents an enormous job-creation opportunity for the United States, and energy is also an industry where many current workers are nearing retirement age. Educated, trained, skilled, and enthusiastic young workers are needed to fill these positions and continue our nation's transition to an energy system that is increasingly relying on clean and renewable resources, and to help us compete, and win, the global clean energy race.

Tyler Huebner, Executive Director

RENEW Wisconsin

National Support for the Grants for Renewable Energy Education for the Nation Act

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) strongly supports the *Grants for Renewable Energy Education for the Nation (GREEN) Act*. Career and technical education (CTE) offers students exposure to the range of sustainable energy career options available today, while providing the education and training necessary to ensure that our nation's workforce is prepared for the green jobs of the future. The *GREEN Act* builds on these efforts by encouraging CTE institutions to further develop technical programs of study that lead to careers in the green energy field. Senator Baldwin is great champion for CTE issues and is doing an excellent job representing the CTE community of Wisconsin in the U.S. Senate. We applaud Senator Baldwin for being a leader in this effort to emphasize the important role of CTE in the growing and evolving energy industry.

Steve DeWitt, Deputy Executive Director

Association for Career and Technical Education

We applaud Senator Baldwin's introduction of the *Grants for Renewable Energy Education for the Nation (GREEN) Act*. Supporting the development of Career Technical Education programs of study in the fields of clean, renewable, and efficient energy ensures that the United States will have the skilled workforce it needs for the 21st century. This legislation will help support the growth and development of this critically important sector of our economy and is an essential component to a sustainable future.

Kimberly Green, Executive Director

National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium

The Grants for Renewable Energy Education for the Nation (GREEN) Act

- U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin -