



Connecting Students to Green Jobs

BACKGROUND

In 2017, through 2SSB 5285, the Legislature directed the Washington Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board to conduct a workforce assessment of mid-skill level jobs, using currently available data, for the agriculture, natural resources, outdoor recreation, and environment sectors.

FINDINGS

Available **data sources are insufficient** for conducting region-specific demand assessments for mid-level, field-based, STEM occupations in the agriculture, natural resources, environment, and outdoor recreation sectors. These sectors offer rural and remote communities much-needed opportunities for living-wage jobs.

WHY IT MATTERS

This insufficient data is being used to make decisions on how Washington allocates workforce and education funding. Meanwhile, living-wage jobs in these sectors go unfilled. This data **disproportionately affects students in our rural and remote communities** and discourages all students from pursuing careers in these sectors.

WHAT'S HAPPENING: EDUCATING FOR A GREEN ECONOMY

Building on this study, PEI has partnered with E3 Washington and launched the project “Educating for a Green Economy” (EGE). In cooperation with the Governor’s office, and under the guidance of a state wide advisory panel (see back page for membership), EGE will work to connect students to “green” jobs, working with educators, post-secondary schools, natural resource and outdoor recreation professionals across Washington to include the variety of job opportunities that lead to sustainable communities.

The project will work to identify the tools and strategies schools can use to ensure students are aware of the green jobs in their communities and have opportunities to develop the knowledge skills and abilities needed to follow the pathway of their choice. EGE will specifically address strategies to include youth with barriers and make recommendations for policies that will support green economy pathways in Washington State.



Colton High School student Jackson Meyer presents with Jason Selwitz, Energy Systems Technology faculty lead at Walla Walla Community College, Alan Hardcastle of WSU and Kathryn Kurtz of EGE at the North American Association of Environmental Education Conference in Spokane.



Colton High School student Jackson Meyer shares his project “Soil Health Benefits of Cover Crops and Grazing Cover Crops” with Governor Inslee in Olympia at the Governor’s STEM Innovation Alliance.



Students in Chris Stone’s Career Technical Education (CTE) Forest Management course work in their local forest.



Educating for a Green Economy Advisory Panel Members

Name	Organization	Job Title
Ignacio Marquez	Department of Agriculture	Regional Assistant to the Director - Eastern/Central WA
Cheryl Fambles	PacMtn WDC	Executive Director
Jason Selwitz	Walla Walla Community College	Professor, Energy System Technology
Lindsey Williams	Agriculture Center of Excellence	Director
Lance Wryzinski	OSPI	Workforce Development
Lynn Longan	Department of Commerce	Rural Strategies Manager
Mary Catharine McAleer	Weyerhaeuser	Public Affairs Manager
John Aultman	Governor's Office	Senior Policy Advisor, Higher Education & Workforce Development
Phyllis Harvey Buschell	MESA	Director
Lucas Rucks	Grays Harbor College	Dean for Workforce Education
Paul Williams	Suquamish Tribe	Shellfish Management Policy Advisor
Laura Lynn	OSPI Native Educators	Program Supervisor, Office of Native Education
Denny Wallace	OSPI	CTE Program Supervisor Agriculture/FFA
Jenny Capella	WorkSource / Res Care	Outreach Coordinator
Roberta McFarland	Shoreline School District	Director/Principal Waskowitz Outdoor School
Dr. Kareen Borders	West Sound STEM Network	Director of STEM Programs and Outreach
Barbara Hins-Turner	Pacific Northwest Center of Excellence for Clean Energy	Executive Director
Alan Hardcastle	WSU Energy Program	Senior Research Manager
Lisa Perry	Sierra Pacific Industries	Community Relations-Washington
Nova Gattman	Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board	Legislative Director
Dave Bingaman	Quinault Indian Nation, Natural Resources	Director of Natural Resources
Brian Young	Governor's Office Clean Technology	Governor's Clean Technology Sector Lead
Gilda Wheeler	WA STEM	Program Director
Anna Nikolaeva	Career Connect WA	Career Connect Washington Manager
Dave Wallace	WTECB	Research Unit Manager
John Traugott	Workforce Initiatives Manager	Washington State Employment Security Department
Lisa Eschenbach	E3	Strategic Advisor
Kathryn Kurtz	Pacific Education Institute	Executive Director

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