



NEWS RELEASE

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Missouri to Identify Skills for “Green” Jobs

A \$1.2 million federal stimulus grant is providing Missouri students, jobseekers and employers new resources for taking advantage of the “greening” of the economy.

The grant, awarded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will fund research to identify opportunities related to “green” occupations, as well as the skills needed for these jobs.

“National labor data has shown ‘green’ is a category with a lot of new and emerging career opportunities,” said Dr. Marty Romitti, director of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC).

Already, green jobs make up 4.8 percent of Missouri’s total employment. Missouri defines “green jobs” as jobs directly involved in generating or supporting a firm’s green-related products or services.

Determining which skills will be valued in a green economy will be a big part of the research conducted with the Missouri State Labor Market Information Improvement Grant. MERIC released a foundational report earlier this month, “The Missouri Green Jobs Report,” that explores how a growing interest in green might affect Missouri workers. For example, welders might need to learn new skills to work on wind turbines, industries such as mining might experience job losses and new jobs might be created related to greener waste management.

The state agencies teaming up to complete the research and deliver resources to the public include the Missouri Department of Economic Development, the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC), Regional Workforce Investment Boards, the State Workforce Investment Board and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The 18-month grant, which began December 1, will generate reports, competency models, and more career and training information resources spaced throughout the time period.

For more information on the grant and planned deliverables, visit www.ded.mo.gov. To view The Missouri Green Jobs Report, go to MERIC’s Web site, www.missourieconomy.org, and click on the “Occupational Studies” tab.

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More information is available at http://dese.mo.gov/divcareered/missouri_connections_news_room.htm.

The Missouri Connections Public Outreach Partnership workgroup represents a collaboration of state agencies concerned with education and workforce development who are helping inform and build awareness among the public, particularly students and potential students, of targeted careers, educational and industry trends, and workforce development priorities. Workgroup members represent the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Department of Higher Education; Department of Economic Development, Division of Workforce Development and Missouri Economic Research & Information Center; Missouri Center for Career Education; and Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Freelance writer is Anita Neal Harrison.