Overview

Domestic production of battery electric vehicles (BEVs) and grid storage systems will rapidly grow for the next few decades and organizations in the advanced battery supply chain are heavily investing to meet projected demand. Estimates show that production capacity in North America for advanced batteries will rise from 63 Gigawatt hours (GWh) in 2022 to 580 GWh by 2027—a 44% annual growth rate. The United States is expected to double its manufacturing capacity by 2025, with more than 10 new battery plants expected to be operational in the next five years. (Source: S&P Global)

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is establishing a team of experts and stakeholders from the advanced battery industry to rapidly develop training and materials for key occupations (as defined by industry) in a manner that complements ongoing workforce development efforts. DOE is coordinating this initiative with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) Working for America Institute, Li-Bridge alliance members, and other organizations.

What will the Battery Workforce Initiative do?

The purpose of this industry-driven, government-facilitated initiative is to speed up the development of high-quality training, starting with existing examples to develop consensus on core training needs, and then develop training for use by companies and local training providers.

The initiative will:

• Convene battery industry organizations to cooperate in the development of training by sharing non-proprietary requirements for high-demand occupations.
• Engage training experts from manufacturers, labor, education, government, and other organizations to participate in facilitated workshops that quickly distill common skills and abilities needed in each industry segment and accelerate decision making.
• Translate those needs into educational and on-the-job training requirements, forming the basis for training materials and guides.

“American leadership in the global battery supply chain will be based not only on our innovative edge, but also on our skilled workforce of engineers, designers, scientists, and production workers.”

- Jennifer M. Granholm, Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy
(Source: DOE Press Release, March 18, 2022)