

RWFI E-NOTE MONTHLY

REGIONAL WORKFORCE INITIATIVE • APRIL 2024

Welcome Message

Greetings NETL RWFI stakeholders,

In this month's funding opportunity in focus is a funding opportunity from the U.S. Department of Energy to increase the amount of training in the energy efficiency and electrification workforce through the *Inflation Reduction Act of 2022: State-Based Home Energy Efficiency Contractor Training Competitive Grant Program*.

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– Sincerely, The NETL RWFI Team

Workforce Funding Announcements

FUNDING SPOTLIGHT



Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022: State-Based Home Energy Efficiency Contractor Training Competitive Grant Program

Department of Energy, Deadline, July 12, 2024

IRA of 2022: State-Based Home Energy Efficiency Contractor Training Competitive Grant Program: The State-Based Home Energy Efficiency Contractor Training Grants, also known as the Training for Residential Energy Contractors Program, seeks to accomplish three goals: (1) reduce the cost of training contractor employees by providing workforce development tools for contractors, their employees, and individuals including, but not limited to, subsidizing available training, testing certifications, and licenses for high-quality jobs; (2) provide testing and certifications of contractors trained and educated to install home energy efficiency and electrification technologies and deliver residential energy efficiency and electrification improvements; and (3) fund states to partner with nonprofit organizations to develop and implement a State sponsored workforce program that attracts and trains a diverse set of local workers to deliver the influx of new federally-funded energy efficiency and electrification programs—including the IRA-funded Home Efficiency Rebates Program, Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates Program (Home Energy Rebates Programs) and Energy Efficiency Home Improvement Credit.

Industry-University Cooperative Research Centers (IUCRC) Program

National Science Foundation, Deadline, June 12, 2024

The IUCRC program catalyzes breakthrough pre-competitive research by enabling close and sustained engagement between industry innovators, world-class academic teams, and government agencies. IUCRCs help industry partners and government agencies connect directly and efficiently with university researchers to achieve three primary objectives: Conduct high-impact research to meet shared and critical industrial needs in companies of all sizes; Enhance U.S. global leadership in driving innovative technology development; and identify, mentor, and develop a diverse, highly skilled science and engineering workforce.

Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (WORC) Round 6: A Grant Initiative for the Appalachian, Delta, and Northern Border Regions

Department of Labor, Deadline, June 20, 2024

The WORC Initiative aims to fund grants that create economic mobility, address inequities for historically marginalized communities of color, rural areas, and other underserved and underrepresented communities. These grants are designed to produce high-quality employment outcomes for workers in the Appalachian, Delta, and Northern Border regions, enabling them to remain and thrive in their communities. The Initiative provides grant funds to help impacted communities develop local and regional workforce development solutions aligned with existing economic development strategies and community partnerships, promoting new, sustainable job opportunities and long-term economic vitality with a focus on equity and underserved populations.

Expanding Artificial Intelligence (AI) Innovation through Capacity Building and Partnerships

National Science Foundation, June 24, 2024

The National Science Foundation and its partners support the continued growth of a broad and diverse interdisciplinary research community for the advancement of AI and AI-powered innovation, providing a unique opportunity to broadly promote the NSF vision and core values, especially inclusion and collaboration. The Expanding AI Innovation through Capacity Building and Partnerships program aims to significantly broaden participation in AI research, education, and workforce development through capacity development projects and through partnerships within the National AI Research Institutes ecosystem.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) 40503: Energy Auditor Training (EAT)

U.S. Department of Energy, Deadline, June 28, 2024

The EAT Program will provide grant funding to states for the purpose of training individuals to conduct energy audits, or surveys, of commercial and residential buildings. This program was established by Section 40503 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, more commonly known as the BIL. The goals of the program are to offer auditor training certifications that include informed curriculum and program design that aligns with current and future standards; inform or empower States with current, standardized framing of the education and training requirements for energy auditors; enlarge the pipeline of diverse talent by closing gaps in job access; address workforce inclusion deficiencies and improve disparities with underrepresented groups; connect auditor trainees to career opportunities that promote job quality and economic mobility; and inspire sustainability through intentional practices and partnerships that support infrastructure development and the long-term value of a clean energy workforce.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Reaching a New Energy Sciences Workforce (RENEW)

Department of Energy, Deadline, July 23, 2024

RENEW aims to build foundations for Office of Science (SC) research through traineeships at academic institutions that have been historically underrepresented in the SC portfolio. RENEW leverages SC's unique national laboratories, user facilities, and other research infrastructure to provide training opportunities for students and postdoctoral researchers from these institutions. The hands-on experiences gained through RENEW will open new career avenues for trainees, forming a nucleus for a future pool of talented young scientists, engineers, and technicians with the critical skills and expertise needed for the full breadth of SC research activities.

NETL News



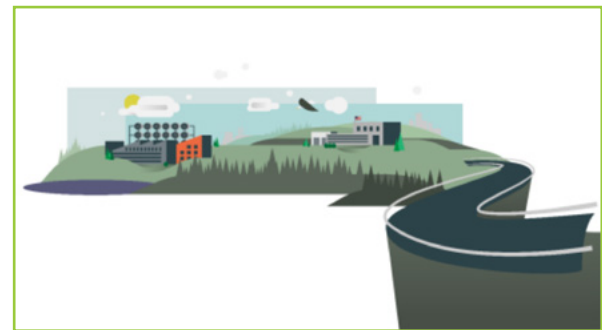
DOE Invests \$11M for Projects to Design CO₂ Transport Systems

As part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda, the DOE today announced \$11M for four selected projects that will help fight climate change by bolstering the nation's carbon management industry. The projects, funded by the BIL, will support the transport of CO₂ captured from industrial and power generation facilities, as well as from legacy CO₂ emissions captured directly from the atmosphere, to locations for permanent geologic storage. This effort supports the development of a large-scale carbon management industry, key to achieving the Biden-Harris Administration's historic climate and clean energy agenda.



NETL Announces Winners of 2024 Earth Day Poster Contest

Earth Day is an annual event that has been celebrated since 1970 and closely aligns with NETL's vision to develop sustainable energy solutions and protect the environment for future generations. In celebration of Earth Day April 22, 2024, NETL proudly announces the winners of its annual Earth Day Poster Contest.



NETL CO₂ Removal Expert Highlights Direct Air Capture (DAC) Hub Opportunities

NETL's Andy Jones, technology manager for the Lab's CO₂ Removal Program, shared details of how the DOE intends to kick-start a nationwide network of large-scale carbon removal sites using DAC technology to address legacy CO₂ pollution and complement rapid emissions reductions.



DOE Invests Nearly \$8M To Treat Wastewater, Recover Valuable Minerals

The DOE's Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) today announced the selection of five research and development projects to receive nearly \$8M for the treatment and management of produced water—or wastewater associated with oil and natural gas development and production—and the management of legacy wastewater associated with coal-based thermal electric power generation facilities. These projects are in addition to \$10M for four projects previously announced in Dec. 2023 to help lower the cost of

developing and demonstrating technologies to manage wastewater safely and effectively for beneficial end-uses, while supporting DOE's goals to provide environmental and economic benefits to communities that have been affected by stressed water resources and legacy pollution. These same energy production waste streams also contain recoverable critical minerals and materials, including rare earth elements, that are essential to our national security and to manufacturing clean energy technologies such as solar panels, wind turbines, and hydrogen fuel cells.



DOE Invests \$8M for Projects to Advance Carbon Capture Technologies that Decarbonize Industrial Processes and Produce Valuable Products

The DOE's FECM today announced \$8M in federal funding for 14 projects to advance technologies that capture CO₂ from industrial facilities and power plants and convert those CO₂ emissions into valuable products. Advancing the development of these technologies will help decarbonize industrial processes and establish the foundation for the development of a successful carbon conversion industry in the United States—supporting the Biden-Harris Administration's ambitious climate goals of achieving a carbon-neutral power sector by 2035 and net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.



NETL Encourages Women in STEM While Hosting Visitors from Womanium Foundation and the Naval Nuclear Laboratory

Representatives of the Womanium Foundation, an organization that encourages girls and women to pursue careers in STEM, visited NETL along with officials of the Naval Nuclear Laboratory's Pittsburgh-based Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory to discuss potential collaborative efforts.

Reports and Resources



2023 State of the Workforce

National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA)

NASWA is proud to present the 2023 State of the Workforce Report. In its third iteration, the report brings together data and key innovations from the nation's state workforce agencies into one cohesive report. NASWA appreciates the state contributions to this effort, as well as the data provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics at the U.S. Department of Labor.

DOE STEM Rising

DOE to Support 1,073 Outstanding Undergraduate Students and 113 Faculty Members from Institutions Underrepresented in the Scientific Research Enterprise

The DOE's SC will sponsor the participation of 1,073 undergraduate students and 113 faculty members in three STEM-focused workforce development programs at 17 DOE national laboratories and a national fusion facility during Summer 2024. Collectively, these programs ensure DOE and our nation have a strong, sustained workforce trained in the skills needed to address the energy, environment, and national security challenges of today and tomorrow.

DOE Announces \$16M for Traineeships in Accelerator Science & Engineering

U.S. global competitiveness in discovery science relies on increasingly complex charged particle accelerator systems that require world-leading expertise to develop and operate. These programs will train the next generation of scientists and engineers, providing the expertise needed to lead activities supported by the DOE SC. These programs will develop new curricula and guide a diverse cadre of graduate students working towards a master's or Ph.D. thesis in accelerator science and engineering..

EnergyTech University Prize 2024 Student Winners Announced

The student winners of the *EnergyTech University Prize* 2024 were announced by the DOE's Office of Technology Transitions at the prize's National Pitch Event on April 15, 2024, at Zpryme's Energy Thought Summit in Austin, TX.

ABOUT NETL



NETL, owned and operated by DOE, is one of the Department's 17 National Laboratories. NETL supports DOE's mission to advance the national, economic, and energy security of the United States.

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