



Green jobs apprenticeship program good for workers, industry, environment

Last month, the County Council unanimously approved my bill that will create a clean-energy jobs apprenticeship readiness program through Worksource Montgomery, which provides job-training and other employment services around the county.

This program will help meet two critical needs in our county:

- It will give our jobless and underemployed residents a great opportunity to train for a well-paying career and climb up the economic ladder.
- It will help provide the skilled workers that our construction companies need, as the industry increasingly incorporates greener technologies. And the need for these workers will only grow, with significant development scheduled in County buildings, schools, neighborhoods near the Purple Line, downtown Wheaton and White Oak, all of which will have a major focus on using renewable-energy sources.

On top of that, promoting more green building technologies is good for the environment and will help the County meet its goal of zero carbon emissions by 2035.

The program will focus on training unemployed and underemployed youth and transitioning adults. The goal is to set them up for success in apprenticeship programs registered with the

Maryland Apprenticeship Training Council and for eventual long-term employment in the clean-energy construction industry.

The program will help prepare participants to work in jobs related to solar systems, green roofs, geothermal systems, rainwater catchments, pervious pavement, thermal walls, wind, natural gas, sewage treatment and other environmental technologies.

The program is not expected to cost taxpayers anything, according to a fiscal analysis by the County's Office of Management and Budget. The program is anticipated to cost from \$10,000 to \$17,500 annually, with Worksource Montgomery seeking grants or sponsorships to cover expenses.

More information on the bill is here: <https://bit.ly/2K81CXO>.