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### **Energy Efficiency Training Grant to help Snohomish County workforce**

**Everett, WA**— Almost 500 individuals in Puget Sound will be trained for careers in energy efficiency, thanks to a \$3.9 million Recovery Act grant awarded to the Northwest Energy Efficiency Council.

\$629,589 will go to train Snohomish County workers through a partnership with Edmonds Community College and Workforce Development Snohomish County (WDCSC).

Approximately 473 people in the Puget Sound region will be trained, earning industry-recognized certificates in residential energy auditing, building operator, and OSHA safety. The project will work closely with participants to place them in energy efficiency occupations.

“This grant means jobs for apprentices and journey level workers, unemployed people, veterans, youth, and people with disabilities,” explains Mary Jane Brell Vujovic, Director of Strategic Initiatives for WDCSC. “It helps our workforce while shoring up our region’s commitment to sustainable and efficient energy solutions. It’s a win-win.”

Created through a regional partnership, the majority of grant funds will be subcontracted to service providers including:

- Community and technical colleges in King, Snohomish, Pierce, Clallam, and Kitsap counties
- Sustainable Works
- Seattle Jobs Initiative
- Martin Luther King County Labor Council, AFL-CIO

The project partners are also bringing \$1.25 million in leveraged funding from local, state and federal sources to coordinate and enhance Sound Energy Efficiency Development (SEED) services.

“When the Puget Sound region collaborates, we’re unstoppable,” exclaims Sue Ambler, WDCSC’s CEO, “we created a dynamic partnership of labor, education, and workforce development across five counties, and the federal government responded. We are so pleased.”

The grant is one of the Energy Training Partnership Grants released competitively under the Recovery Act (stimulus). The SEED project partners collaborated across the entire Puget Sound region to compete for the grant. Nationwide, 25 projects won awards, ranging from approximately \$1.4 to \$5 million each.

Additional grant partners include McKinstry Company, Puget Sound Energy, Control Contractors, Inc., Workforce Development Council (WDC) of Seattle-King County, Tacoma-Pierce County WDC, Olympic Consortium, South Seattle Community College, Seattle Vocational Institute, Edmonds Community College, Olympic College, Martin Luther King Jr. County Labor Council, AFL-CIO, Sustainable Works, and Seattle Jobs Initiative.

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**Workforce Development Council Snohomish County (WDCSC)** invests government and private funding to continuously increase the global competitiveness and prosperity of county workforce and businesses, fill current and emerging jobs, and provide full employment. Investments are made through effective business, labor, community-based, educational, and service provider organizations for the opportunity, economic well-being, and benefit of our entire community.

The **Northwest Energy Efficiency Council** ([www.neec.net](http://www.neec.net)) is a non-profit trade association of the energy efficiency industry. NEEC member companies provide energy efficiency products and services and assist in the development and implementation of energy efficiency programs.