

RichmondBUILD Partners— The Foundation for Success

RichmondBUILD's partners include public and private organizations that make significant investments toward preparing the next generation of construction workers and green-collar workers to enter these industries.

Build It Green

CA Department of Labor & Workforce Development Agency

CA Employment Training Panel

CA Energy Commission

Carpenters Training Committee of Northern California

Chevron

City of Richmond Public Works

Contra Costa Building Trades Council

Contra Costa College

East Bay Academy for Young Scientists

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Green Industry Employers

GRID Alternatives

Hispanic Green Education

Home Depot

Literacy for Every Adult Program (LEAP)

PG&E

Richmond Housing Authority

Richmond Redevelopment Agency & Housing Department

Richmond Workforce Investment Board

Rising Sun Energy Center

Solar Richmond

UC Berkeley Lawrence Hall of Science

US Department of Labor

WCC Adult Education

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CITY OF RICHMOND

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Skills Program
360 South 27th Street

RichmondBUILD II
YouthBUILD
636 Spring Sreet

Richmond BUILD III
Green Careers Academy
& Visitors Center
500 23rd Street



RichmondBUILD Green Careers Academy



RichmondBUILD— Individual Opportunity and Community Renewal



Sal Vaca
Director
Employment & Training,
City of Richmond

“RichmondBUILD has developed into a world-class green careers training program that is preparing a skilled workforce for the clean and green technology industry.”

—Sal Vaca
Director of
Employment
& Training,
City of Richmond

Like many urban communities, the City of Richmond faces the challenges of high unemployment and under-served populations. RichmondBUILD has met these challenges head-on.

In April 2007, it launched RichmondBUILD, a public-private partnership focused on developing talent and skills in the high-growth, high-wage construction and renewable energy fields.

RichmondBUILD has become the model for effective public-private partnership. Its partners are steadfastly committed to the program and contribute in a variety of ways. For example, Solar Richmond and Rising Sun Energy Center contribute instructional components that educate participants in energy efficiency and water conservation, home performance testing, retrofitting, and solar installation.

Opportunity is what drives crime and violence from communities and spurs renewal. The RichmondBUILD Green Careers Academy creates career opportunities for Richmond residents through a sixteen-week intensive training program that includes classes in:

- Safety training
- Scaffolding
- Power tools
- Framing
- Sheet rock
- Roofing
- Green plumbing
- Green building
- Basic electrical
- Environmental literacy
- Energy efficiency
- Solar installation

The Word Is Out

RichmondBUILD has received substantial national and international recognition as an exemplary green-collar job training program.

2010—Congressman George Miller and Assistant Secretary of Labor Jane Oates visit the RichmondBUILD Green Careers Academy. The event highlights the announcement of a new Bridges to Success grant awarded to RichmondBUILD’s summer youth employment program.

2010—Congressman John Garamendi visits RichmondBUILD, where he stresses the importance of programs that support the development of a sustainable economy.

2010—Missouri Congressman Emmanuel Cleaver II visits RichmondBUILD to glean innovative strategies to support his Green Impact Zone initiative for Kansas City, MO.

2009—RichmondBUILD is a semifinalist for the 2009 Harvard Innovations in American Government award.

2009—Senator Barbara Boxer presents the Conservation Champion Award to RichmondBUILD. The award recognizes individuals and organizations that work to promote a safe and healthy environment.

2008—RichmondBUILD receives the FBI Director’s Community Leadership Award, which honors individuals and organizations for their efforts in combating crime, terrorism, drugs, and violence in America. In addition, the Apollo Alliance and Green For All deemed the program a national “best practice” in Green For All’s publication, *Green-Collar Jobs in America’s Cities*.

“We are thrilled to have RichmondBUILD graduates coming to work at Sun Light & Power. This is a program that has long been needed. We are happy to offer jobs to these graduates. They are very dedicated and have become solar advocates, now that they have gone through the RichmondBUILD Green Careers Academy.”

—Gary Gerber
President & CEO,
Sun Light & Power



RichmondBUILD— Green Careers Academy



Serving the Underserved

All RichmondBUILD participants come from low-income households. Ninety-five percent are minorities, and over 30 percent have a history with the justice system. The program's reputation for placing graduates in well-paying jobs means over 350 residents compete for the 30 available seats in each class.

Since its inception in April 2007, over 350 participants have graduated from RichmondBUILD. The program places an impressive 90 percent of its graduates at an average starting wage of \$18.33 an hour. Thirty percent of placements are green-collar jobs, primarily with solar and energy efficiency companies. Seventy percent are in the construction and skilled trade jobs industries. The job retention rate for graduates is equally robust: 85 percent.

Green Careers Academy Offerings

The core RichmondBUILD program includes building an 800-square-foot home incorporating construction skills and energy efficiency practices. Beyond the core RichmondBUILD program, the Green Careers Academy offers students the CRAFT and YouthBuild programs.

Core RichmondBUILD Program

- Environmental Literacy
- Green Building
- Construction Skills
- Energy Efficiency
- Solar Installation & Technology
- Solar Thermal
- Scaffolding
- Concrete Forms

CRAFT Program

A short, intensive training designed to upgrade skills of laid-off residential construction workers.

- Green Building
- Green Plumbing
- Energy Efficiency
- Electrical
- HAZMAT
- Lead Abatement
- Asbestos Abatement
- Vocational English as a Second Language (VESL)

YouthBUILD Program

- GED Program at John Muir Charter School
- Mental Toughness
- Construction Skills Training
- Green Careers Training
- Offsite Construction Skills Training
- On-the-job Training

To qualify for RichmondBUILD, applicants must be Richmond residents, 18 years of age or older. They need to possess a:

- Resume
- High school diploma or GED
- Valid California driver's license
- Social Security card or right to work status

In addition, applicants are interviewed and must pass a drug test, as well as basic math and reading exams.

From Classroom to Community

Students participate in a number of hands-on activities that utilize skills acquired in the classroom. They conduct home energy audits, which include testing for heating system leaks and checking insulation. They inspect under the house and in the attic, and make repairs.

In addition, they have the opportunity to work on two solar installations for low-income Richmond homeowners. These installations deliver a triple benefit: students experience effective, real-world training in solar installation, homeowners receive a solar system financed by a low-interest loan that immediately reduces their energy bills, and the planet benefits from a reduction in carbon emissions.



Angela Greene
Cohort 1 graduate and
RichmondBUILD case manager

“RichmondBUILD has renewed my energy and made me the Angela Greene I am today. It’s given me so many opportunities. I’ve worked in the industry as an installation coordinator and traveled the country speaking about the value of solar energy and green technologies. Now, I’m back at RichmondBUILD as a case manager. I would have never dreamed any of this on my first day of class!”



RichmondBUILD—Alumni Gallery

Our graduates all have unique stories to tell about their experiences in the RichmondBUILD program. Here's what three of them have to say.



Sam

Cohort 10 graduate and Energy Conservation Options employee

“Not only did I learn valuable work and soft skills at RichmondBUILD, the program gave me the opportunity to work at Energy Conservation Options, where I am expanding my knowledge while also learning about the social dimension of the green industry firsthand.”



Lisa

Cohort 6 graduate and Chevron employee

“The first day of class, I was a little skeptical, but now my dad calls me every night: ‘You’re a boiler maker, you weld—that’s so cool!’”



Wayne

Cohort 5 graduate and Sun Light & Power employee

“I’m doing something positive that has really changed my life around. A year or two years ago, you would have never thought this guy could do something like that. But now it’s possible. I’m working hard, doing everything I have to do. I’m more determined. My mom said that I’ve changed.”

Success Leads to Expansion

RichmondBUILD has continually expanded its offerings in construction skills, solar installation, energy efficiency, and green technology.

RichmondBUILD Green Careers Academy & Visitors Center

The Visitors Center, located at the RichmondBUILD III training facility, showcases innovative solutions that help sustain the environment. At the Center, trend setting vendors can demonstrate eco-friendly products and services to businesses, residents, and students. The Visitors Center has proven to be a great educational and marketing venue.

YouthBUILD

Expansion has directed more resources to YouthBUILD, a companion program to RichmondBUILD, which assists low-income young people ages 16–24 in transforming their lives and their roles in society. Program participants work toward their GEDs or high school diplomas, learn job skills, and serve their communities through building affordable housing.

Summer Youth Program

The Summer Youth Program offers classes and hands-on experience in green careers. Environmental Literacy, Clean Energy Leadership, and the CA Youth Energy Services summer employment program are part of a specialty track in the RichmondBUILD curriculum.



RichmondBUILD II YouthBUILD



RichmondBUILD III Green Careers Academy & Visitors Center

