

City of Tacoma, WA

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The city of Tacoma, WA first received EPA funding in 2003, and again in 2006, 2008, 2009 (ARRA grant), 2011, and 2013. What makes their program one of EPA's best? The key in the formation and organizational support were efforts by the city of Tacoma to establish a workforce training program for residents of their community. With an assessment grant in place and identification of potential local employers, city government organized and supported the effort to bring together meaningful working partners. Most important, the working partners included organizations that represented each component of a sustainable workforce program. Components included recruitment, training, student support, and placement services. Each partner brought to the organization their specialized talent. In addition, each partner contributed their leveraged network, contacts, and resources.

Tacoma attributes their success to the close and cordial working relationship with Clover Park Technical College and other partners. City officials have provided the environment, effort, and support needed from city government to make the partnership excel. Without the city "buy in", success would be difficult.

Overview of Tacoma's environmental workforce program

Key partners

- Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
- WorkForce Central
- Metropolitan Development Council
- Tacoma REACH Center
- Clover Park Technical College
- (Every partner brings leveraged services, networks, and resources to the program.)

Curriculum (core training program includes 206 hours of instruction)

- 40-Hour HAZWOPER
- OSHA construction safety
- Confined space entry
- Mold assessment and remediation
- Forklift for construction reach and warehouse
- Chemical awareness
- Underground storage tank leak prevention

- Stormwater management
- Alternative treatment technologies

Four supplemental training courses are also offered to graduates

- OSHA disaster site worker
- Certified erosion and sediment control
- Lead and asbestos worker training
- Lead renovation, repair, and painting

Certifications

- Seven state and federal certifications are offered through the core training program
- Four additional certifications are available through supplemental training

Placement and tracking

- Will train 54 students and track graduates for one year

Student recruitment

- Program targets
- Veterans
- Unemployed and under-employed individuals
- Residents of Tacoma who have been disproportionately impacted by environmental threats to include leaking underground storage tanks
- Program uses TABE for proof of 10th grade level in reading and math

Student support

- Students are reviewed for potential (WIA) benefits