



68°F



Forgot Password? | Not a User? [Sign up](#)



EVENTS CALENDAR

◀ Aug 2010 ▶						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Upcoming Events
 08/03 Tuesday Karaoke!!
 08/03 Tuesday Karaoke!!
[more events >>](#)

E-mail story |
 Print story |
 Share story |
 RSS feeds

Friday, July 30, 2010

Program trains for green energy jobs

A federal grant funds a variety of training opportunities for the careers of the future.

By [Duncan Adams](#)

981-3324

The man sidled up to Dustin Hoffman's aimless young character in "The Graduate" and quietly advised, "Plastics."

Now, decades after the iconic film's release, a well-meaning adult might whisper, "Green energy."

But Vincent Randall isn't whispering. He is trumpeting the news about regional offerings for free, stimulus-funded training in green energy jobs -- a field amped these days with more buzz than an angry beehive.

Randall is nagged by the notion that people in these parts still have not heard about the CREATES program.

The free training is for people who are employed, underemployed or jobless, for the young, middle-aged and older. For employers too, said Randall, a regional program specialist for the Western Virginia Workforce Development Board.

Randall's mission includes spreading the word about the training and, ultimately, to connect trainees with potential employers or to help companies and their current workers get up to speed on green building.

His territory includes the cities of Covington, Roanoke and Salem and the counties of Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, Franklin and Roanoke. A colleague handles cities and counties south of Roanoke.

Every federally funded program needs an acronym. In this case, it is CREATES -- Construction, Retrofitting and Energy-efficiency Assessment Training and Employment System.

A \$3.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor funds the regional effort, which extends south through the New River Valley to Bristol.

Christiansburg-based Community Housing Partners was the grant recipient. Partners include Virginia Tech, NewVA Corridor Technology Council, New River Community College, Wytheville Community College, Virginia Western Community College, the New River Center for Energy Research and Training, the New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Investment Board and Randall's outfit.

Opportunities for training range from one-day certification classes to a semester or two of course work at participating community colleges.

Who is eligible and who isn't?

Randall hesitates.

Yes, assessments are involved. But Randall said people should not fret about all that and take themselves out of the running without first talking to him about CREATES.

"The assessments look at aptitude, an ability to learn," he said.



Keywords:

City & State and/or Zip:

Category: Select Category:

Within: Distance:

[findabiz.roanoke.com](#)

Featured Cars



\$12,000

[2004 Mercedes-Benz M-Class](#)
Private Seller



\$17,995

[2007 Honda Pilot](#)
Rick Woodson
Honda



\$39,900

[2008 Lexus GS 350](#)
Private Seller



[2009 Mitsubishi Eclipse](#)
Private Seller

Randall said that even if someone does not seem right for green energy training, there are other resources to which he can direct them.

And what about adults who might be anxious about the prospect of taking a college course, even during an era when faces in most community college classrooms range from peach-fuzzed to time-worn?



"When they pick up the phone to call me, I'm helping them through every step of the process," Randall said.

For those eligible for CREATES, the grant money will pay for their tuition and students might be able to complete one or two semesters of work before the two-year grant ends.

And then there are also those one-week and one-day trainings.

Randall said training is just the first step.

"My goal is to match them with green professions," he said. "You're hearing people saying, 'Green energy, green energy, green energy.' We're building a database of employers who might be interested in the people who receive the training."

[2004 Mercedes-Benz C-Class](#)
Private Seller

[\\$14,595](#)
[2009 Nissan Sentra](#)
Rick Woodson
Honda

[View All Featured Autos](#)

[Solar Energy](#)

Learn about saving energy from the experts. Enterprise wide savings!
schneider-electric.com

[Virginia Solar Panels](#)

Virginia's Solar Panel Design & Installation Experts. Free Eval!
StandardSolar.com

[Solar PV in MD | DC | VA](#)

Home Energy Specialists Free Solar Site & Roof Survey
www.edge-gogreen.com

Ads by Google

Site Index

[News](#)

- Archives
- Business
- Columnists
- Corrections
- Golf
- Headline VA
- Local news
- National news
- New River Valley news
- Politics
- Special reports
- Weather

[Sports](#)

- Auto racing
- Baseball
- College sports
- Golf
- High school sports
- Outdoors
- Sports TimesCast
- UVa basketball
- UVa football
- VT basketball
- VT football

[Entertainment](#)

- Arts
- Book reviews
- Comics
- Events calendar
- Extra/InsideOut
- Food
- Lottery
- Movie listings/reviews
- Music
- Puzzles
- TV listings

[Local](#)

- Blue Ridge Business Journal
- Celebrations
- Community news
- SWoCo
- Botetourt View
- So Salem
- Laker Weekly
- smithmountainlake.com
- NRV Current
- Newspaper in Education
- Obituaries
- Opinion/Editorials
- The Edge

[Online features](#)

- Blogs
- Find a Biz
- Big Lick Sports Picks
- Contests
- Datasphere
- Message boards
- Movie listings
- Multimedia
- Photography
- RSS feeds
- RT the RT: Social media
- Shopping
- Special reports
- Sports TimesCast
- VarsityCast
- Video

[Do business with us](#)

- Get the paper
- Advertise with us
- Awards and recognition
- Buy a photo
- Contact us
- Intern at The Roanoke Times
- Manage your paper
- Manage your profile
- Place a classified ad
- Register online
- Send a news tip
- Tour The Roanoke Times
- Work at The Roanoke Times

[Classified](#)

- Find a Biz
- Celebrations
- Coupons
- Simply Savings
- Find an apartment
- Find a car
- Find a home
- Find a job
- Pro talk: Ask an expert
- Pets

THE ROANOKE TIMES
roanoke.com

- Get the paper
- Create/manage your profile
- Professional standards
- Privacy policy, terms and conditions
- Contact us
- How this site works best

Copyright © 2010