

## **U.S. Department of Energy**

### **Energy Jobs Strategy Council**

#### **Background**

The rapidly changing nature of energy production, transmission, distribution, and consumption throughout the U.S. economy is having a dramatic impact on job creation and economic competitiveness, but is poorly understood and inadequately measured. As a result, policy makers are missing opportunities to accelerate U.S. deployment of new energy technologies, more efficient distribution systems, and the expansion and repatriation of manufacturing capacity, particularly in energy intensive industries.

The technology advances in oil and gas extraction have turned the corner on America's reliance on others for our fossil fuels. A combination of regulatory changes, technology improvements and financial incentives has accelerated our renewable energy production to new levels. The drive for fuel efficiency in the vehicle transportation sector has restored America's leadership in automotive production and presents an unprecedented opportunity to dominate the heavy duty truck industry. While growth is expected to continue in a number of sectors, including solar, wind and manufacturing, at the core of this opportunity, is the fact that America has once again become one of the world's largest producers of oil and gas.

While progress has been made in the last few years, the skills gap between available workers and job vacancies is still pronounced in the energy sector, with tens of thousands of well-paying jobs, which could lay the foundation for long-term careers, going unfilled. The inability to fill jobs quickly is stifling innovation and new investments and unnecessarily increasing consumer costs which, in turn, slows deployment. It also negatively impacts the quality of life of the American people by prolonging high levels of unemployment and blocking a major opportunity for social mobility in disadvantaged communities. To take advantage of these opportunities and address the workforce development needs of the energy sector, the Department of Energy (DOE) created an Energy Jobs Strategy and established the Energy Jobs Strategy Council to implement the activities outlined in the Energy Jobs Strategy.

#### **Energy Jobs Strategy Council**

The United States Department of Energy Jobs' Strategy Council (JSC or Council) is a cross-cutting initiative that integrates the research, technology, and economic resources of the Department to respond to the economic and workforce development needs of the energy industry.

#### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the JSC is to accelerate the growth of and access to jobs in all sectors of the United States energy, energy efficiency, and advanced manufacturing economy.

## **Objectives and Scope of Activities**

The scope of the Council shall include, but not be limited to, discussion of policies and strategies to:

- Design both short term and long term methodologies for providing consistent, usable data measuring job growth throughout all energy, energy efficiency, and motor vehicle sectors, including the supervision of the production of the annual United States Energy and Employment Report;
- Develop a mechanism to create an economy-wide definition of “energy work” across all sectors of extraction, production, distribution and consumption of energy;
- Compile analyses of the job skills necessary for entry level and mid-level jobs (those requiring a 2 year college degree) in each energy sector;
- Identify barriers to entry (such as education, training, physical demands) and to design strategies to eliminate or minimize these barriers;
- Complete career pathway “analysis ladders” for each energy sector;
- Create an economic development tool kit for implementation, outreach, and educational purposes by DOE with state, local, tribal, and regional planners, educational; institutions, and private sector stakeholders, based on the technical advice, loan programs, technology initiatives, and research capacity within the Department, with a special emphasis on connecting energy and manufacturing jobs;
- Implement programmatic workforce development and recruitment solutions to the skills gap that exist throughout all energy sectors in partnership with the existing community college systems, union apprenticeship programs, tribal colleges and universities, land grant colleges, and other educational institutions with special emphasis on the barriers that deny access to those jobs to disadvantaged communities;
- Develop workshop materials that instruct states on how to access DOE technical assistance and loan programs to create state-based energy and jobs plans;
- Aggregate and publicize best practices in successful efforts to integrate energy and jobs strategies into overall economic development planning;
- Assist the Loan Program Office in publicizing the availability and breadth of DOE financial tools;
- Maintain a clean energy manufacturing economic development program that links the resources of DOE Program Offices, the DOE Laboratories, and the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI’s) to the state, local, tribal and regional strategies for economic development;

- Serve as a venue for addressing systemic failures of existing energy workforce development approaches or gaps in existing programs;
- Determine criteria for a state-based energy and jobs coordinator competition;
- Maximize available resources to accelerate U.S. deployment of new technologies, reduce consumer costs and reduce high levels of unemployment, particularly in coal-impacted communities;
- Attract and retain qualified talent experienced in the specialized, hard-to-fill positions, which are highly competitive with higher paying private sector positions in the expanding energy industry;
- Coordinate the Department's activities with the interagency Energy and Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Initiative (EAMWI);
- Coordinate the Department's activities with external energy companies and other federal agencies on hiring Veterans;
- Develop international energy and energy efficiency jobs data methodologies and energy economic development initiatives in collaboration with International Affairs.
- Enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the Nation;
- Avoid duplication of effort.

The Council may raise additional issues for discussion, subject to approval by the Chair.

### **Membership**

The Jobs Strategy Council will include the following members (or Acting Official, where necessary):

- The Under Secretary for Management and Performance
- The Under Secretary for Science and Energy
- The Under Secretary for Nuclear Security
- The Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs
- The Assistant Secretary for Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
- The Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
- The Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy
- The Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy

- The Assistant Secretary for International Affairs
- The Administrator of the Energy Information Administration
- The Chief Human Capital Officer
- The Executive Director of the Loan Program Office
- The Director of the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity
- The Director of the Office of Energy Policy and Systems Analysis
- The Director of Indian Energy Policy and Programs
- The Director of the Office of Science
- The Director of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization
- A representative from the National Laboratory Chief Operating Officers' Group
- Representatives from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, National Energy Technology Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratory, Brookhaven National Laboratory, and Idaho National Laboratory, and Director of the Advanced Manufacturing Office
- A federal representative of the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation
- A representative from each of the Power Marketing Administrations

The following Departmental offices will participate in activities of the Council as appropriate:

- The Deputy Secretary
- The Chief of Staff
- Senior Advisors in the Office of the Secretary
- Any Departmental office identified by the Secretary

The Secretary of Energy will serve as the Chair and may appoint a Co-Chair of the Council.

The Council may consult non-Federal individuals and entities to obtain their opinions on an individual basis as needed.

### **Frequency of Meetings**

The Council will meet quarterly or as required by the Chair.

### **Subcommittees**

The JSC may create subcommittees and workgroups as needed. The objectives of the subcommittees and workgroups are to make recommendations to the Council with respect to particular matters related to the responsibilities of the Council. Members of such subcommittees or workgroups will be Federal employees with the necessary expertise. Subcommittees and workgroups may consult non-Federal employees and entities to obtain their individual opinions as needed.

**Staffing.**

The Council will be directed by a coordinator assigned to the Office of the Secretary. The annual production of the USEER will be coordinated by the Council as it was in its initial year 2016. USEER costs will be assessed, as in FY17, to the Offices of EERE, OE, FE, and NE, in such amounts as the CFO shall deem appropriate. Program staff will be detailed to the projects of the Council according to an annual plan approved by the Secretary.

**Effective Date:** \_\_\_\_\_