

# Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**\$4 MILLION GRANT TO SILICON VALLEY PARTNERSHIP CREATING A CLEAN ENERGY  
WORKFORCE INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE: SOLAR TRAINING INSTITUTE (STI)  
PROVIDING RESPONSIVE CURRICULUM AND TRAINING**

**SAN JOSE, CA – JANUARY 31, 2011:** The clean energy sector is hot. But how much does this sharp growth translate to actual new career opportunities? What kind? How many? Where? It is these questions that workforce training organizations need answered to help talent make quick transitions to new careers. Unfortunately, they often make large dollar decisions on scant industry sector information. Making bad bets not only hurts the training institutions, but their clients as well.

To help address this need, STI is partnering with SolarTech, the NOVA Workforce Board and Foothill/DeAnza College to create curriculum and training programs based on enhanced labor market data from the partnership's information clearinghouse. STI will develop and teach a 120-hour course to train dislocated Silicon Valley engineers in Solar PV design engineering. The advanced course, which starts on February 10, will train individuals to design large commercial solar PV systems and prepare them for employment with commercial solar integrators and engineering companies.

"With great information from SolarTech, we can respond to the market in almost real time," says Devin Ruiz, President of STI. "Their access to energy sector leaders allows us to create the right

courses at the right time and in the right place, so trainees can compete more successfully for these clean energy jobs.”

The grant that enables this partnership was initiated by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and the Employment Development Department (EDD) this summer to make available \$20 million to fund the Green Innovation Challenge Grant program. The funds provided five Challenge grants, at up to \$4 million each, to encourage business-led partnerships to develop and implement new workforce training strategies that will prepare workers for jobs in a broad range of clean technologies.

Solar Training Institute is pleased to be a part of this innovative program and brings extensive solar industry training experience to bear for effective participation in SolarTech’s Work Force Innovation Collaborative - SWIC.

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**About STI:**

The Solar Training institute is an Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC®) accredited provider of professional solar training programs. STI develops and teaches courses in Photovoltaic (PV) systems and employs expert industry instructors. The advanced, NABCEP approved curriculum prepares contractors, electricians, engineers, HVAC and other trades people to meet the requirements for skilled and technical jobs in the solar industry. STI also offers instruction in sales, marketing and solar energy entrepreneurship, plus solar career guidance for skilled, technical and corporate career changers.

STI also partners with business to customize structured training classes also help them gain the skilled workers they need to meet the growing demands of alternative energy development and to help individuals start, transition or advance their careers in the solar industry.

Dedicated to leading renewable energy industry education, the Solar Training Institute uses standardized training methods and teaching practices to prepare individuals and businesses for success in the solar industry.

Based in San Jose, California, STI offers courses in San Jose, Los Angeles, Orange County, San Diego, CA and Honolulu, HI For more information, visit [www.TrainingForSolar.com](http://www.TrainingForSolar.com) or call (408) 625-7400.

NOVA Workforce Board: 505 W Olive Ave Suite #550, Sunnyvale, CA. 94086 (408) 730-7232

[www.novaworks.org/](http://www.novaworks.org/)

SolarTech: 1290 Parkmoor Avenue, San Jose, CA. 95126 (408) 972-0506 [www.solartech.org/](http://www.solartech.org/)

Foothill/DeAnza Community College District: 12345 El Monte Road Los Altos Hills, CA 94022 [www.fhda.edu/](http://www.fhda.edu/)

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