

Northeast Regional Clean Energy & Climatetech Workforce Summit

May 8, 2025- Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School

**Innovating Together: Empowering
the Clean Energy Workforce**



Agenda

9:30: Breakfast and Registration

10:00: Welcome and Opening Remarks

10:25- Presentation and Panel: Strategies to Empower Tomorrow's Workforce: Adapting to Shifting Demographics

11:25- Presentations and Breakout Table Discussions: Addressing Training Capacity Challenges for Climate Critical Occupations: A View of the Northeast Region

12:30- Lunch catered by Essex North Shore Culinary students

1:15- MassCEC Workforce Award Announcements and Updates

1:50- Panel: Opportunities for Cross-Industry Learning and Collaboration: Manufacturing and Climatetech

2:45- Closing & Networking Dessert Bar



Access summit materials and learn more
<https://www.masscec.com>

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9:30 AM	Networking, Breakfast, and Registration
10:00 AM	Summit Overview, Welcome, and Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jennifer Applebaum, Managing Director of Workforce Development, MassCEC• Dr. Heidi Riccio, Superintendent-Director, Essex North Shore Technical and Agricultural School• Jennifer Edwards, Director, GE Vernova Foundation
10:25 AM	Strategies to Empower Tomorrow's Workforce: Adapting to Shifting Demographics <p>The Northeast Massachusetts region—including Greater Lowell, Merrimack Valley, and the North Shore—is experiencing major demographic and economic changes. From 2011 to 2021, the region's increasingly diverse workforce grew significantly, with the Hispanic/Latino population alone rising nearly 50%. Meanwhile, statewide workforce challenges persist, including an aging labor pool and barriers facing court-involved individuals. As the labor market evolves, workforce strategies must adapt to ensure equitable access to family-sustaining careers for all.</p> <p>Regional Labor Market Overview Presentation: Raija Vaisanen, Deputy Managing Director of Workforce Development, MassCEC</p> <p>Panel: Moderated by Alysia Ordway, Undersecretary, Executive Office of Labor & Workforce Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shakir Cannon-Moye, Vice President, Julius Education• Miriam Ortiz, Director of Education and Training, Just-A-Start• Abel Vargas, President, Valley Home Insulation
11:25 AM	Addressing Training Capacity Challenges for Climate-Critical Occupations <p>The MassCEC Workforce Needs Assessment identified over 50 clean energy training programs in the Northeast, many concentrated in vocational and technical high schools. However, gaps remain for in-demand roles, especially in HVAC and electrical. This session will explore ways to expand training and pre-apprenticeship opportunities in clean energy and climatetech across the region.</p> <p>Introduction: Elizabeth Youngblood, Senior Program Manager, Workforce Development, MassCEC</p> <p>Regional Perspectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jennifer James Price, Assistant Vice President of Strategic Employer Relations, North Shore Community College• Susan Almono, Director of Grants and Workforce, Greater Lawrence Technical School

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11:45 AM	Addressing Capacity Challenges: Breakout Discussion Tables <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topic 1: Solutions to expanding regional training programs (youth and adult)• Topic 2: Pathways for re-skilling and up-skilling workers• Topic 3: Industry Engagement (Small business support, Employer partnerships)• Topic 4: Best practices to successfully serve underrepresented populations
12:30 PM	Lunch and Networking
1:15 PM	MassCEC Workforce Development Award Announcements and Program Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Emily Reichert, Chief Executive Officer, MassCEC• Crystal Johnson, Assistant Secretary of Environmental Justice, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs• Jennifer Applebaum, Managing Director of Workforce Development, MassCEC
1:50 PM	Opportunities for Cross-Industry Learning and Collaboration: Manufacturing and Climatetech <p>Massachusetts' advanced manufacturing sector—especially in the Northeast—benefits from strong training programs and partnerships. The state's Climatetech Economic Development Strategy highlights the need to connect firms with local supply chain partners. This session will highlight workforce strategies from manufacturing that clean energy and climatetech sectors can apply, featuring efforts like MassBridge and AMTEP. Panelists will discuss how state resources, apprenticeships, and corporate support have helped grow the talent needed to scale operations.</p> <p>Panel: Moderated by Adam Rodrigues, Vice President, FORGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meghan Abella Bowen, Senior Program Manager of Manufacturing Workforce Partnerships, Massachusetts Technology Collaborative• Conor Helfrich, Vice President of Business Operations, Helfrich Brothers Boiler Works, Inc.• Ed O'Sullivan, Executive Director, MassHire North Shore Workforce Board• Elise Strobach, CEO, Aeroshield
2:45 PM	Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Edward Hsieh, Program Director, Workforce Development, MassCEC
3:00 PM	Networking Dessert Bar

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Massachusetts Clean Energy Center is a state economic development agency dedicated to accelerating the growth of the clean energy and climatetech sector across the Commonwealth to spur job creation, deliver statewide environmental benefits, and secure long-term economic opportunities for the people of Massachusetts. Since 2010, MassCEC has awarded nearly \$800 million in programs and investments and attracted more than \$2.8 billion in private and public funds. MassCEC's growing workforce development portfolio includes the Clean Energy Internship Program, Workforce Equity Programs, Climate Service Corps, Climate-Critical Workforce Grants, Heat Pump and HVAC Training Network, and Offshore Wind Works Program.



The GE Vernova Foundation, an independent charitable organization funded by GE Vernova, puts the company's purpose – The Energy to Change the World – into practice across the global communities where employees live and work. Following the spinoff of GE Vernova as an independent company in April 2024 and building on the 100+ year legacy of the GE Foundation, the newly formed GE Vernova Foundation is prioritizing employees through programs such as Matching Gifts and STAR Awards. As the Foundation grows, its strategic philanthropic strategy and programs will focus on growing stronger and more resilient communities and building the workforce needed to drive the energy transition forward.

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- Commonwealth Corporation
- Commonwealth Corporation Foundation
- Essex North Shore Technical and Agricultural School
- FORGE
- Greater Lawrence Technical School
- Massachusetts Technology Collaborative
- MassHire North Shore Workforce Board
- MassMEP

