



MASSACHUSETTS
CLEAN ENERGY
CENTER®

4th Annual Workforce Grantee Convening

12/4/2025 • Norwood Conference Center



Innovating Together: Empowering the Clean Energy Workforce



<https://www.masscec.com>

9:30-10:00 ▪ Registration & Networking

Light breakfast provided

10:00-10:15 ▪ Welcome and Agenda Overview

10:15-11:10 ▪ Plenary: High-Opportunity Climate-Critical Careers, Despite Other Trends

As Massachusetts accelerates its clean energy transition, which careers are growing and what skills are most in demand? Industry leaders outline emerging opportunities and how grantees can align programs to prepare the next generation of clean energy talent.

Moderator: Edward Hsieh, MassCEC **Panelists:** Chima Anidobe, National Grid; Chris Morin, HVAC Pro Blog LLC, Tony Volpone, Casella Resource Solutions; Brock Yordy, Geothermal Drillers Association

11:20-12:20 ▪ Morning Breakouts for Action: Strategies, Tools, and Peer Learning

See the reverse side for details

12:30-1:10 ▪ Lunch and Networking

1:10-1:30 ▪ Funding Opportunities, Strategic Initiatives, and Program Updates

1:30-2:30 ▪ Plenary: Beyond Access: Breaking Barriers to Workforce & Business Development

Innovative models are breaking down financial and structural barriers to workforce and business development. Speakers showcase solutions—from new financing tools to wraparound supports—tested in clean energy and other sectors, offering a path to accelerate progress and scale climate-ready talent solutions.

Moderator: Jennifer Applebaum, MassCEC **Panelists:** Jose Abreu, Eastern Bank; Dr. Sarah Cherry Rice, Digital Ready; Hydie Hudson, Social Finance; Kristen Joyce, Springfield Works; Jay Vilar, Fountain Fund

2:40-3:35 ▪ Afternoon Breakouts for Action: Strategies, Tools, and Peer Learning

See the reverse side for details

3:35-4:00 ▪ Closing and Networking

Afternoon treats and snacks provided

4th Annual Workforce Grantee Convening

December 4th 2025- Norwood Conference Center, Four Points by Sheraton

11:20-12:20 ▪ Morning Breakouts for Action: Strategies, Tools, and Peer Learning

Session 1A ▪ Peer-Led Table Discussions (Ballroom)

Exchange insights, compare approaches, and surface practical solutions for strengthening impact. **Topics:** **Understanding Clean Energy & Climate Resilience Jobs** (China Duff, BW Research); **Supporting Justice-Impacted Individuals** (Matthew Marrano, Volunteers of America); **Working with Mass Save** (Silvana Bastante Muñoz, LISC)

Session 1B ▪ From Intake to Insight: Business Assessment Across the CUBS Network (Rm 101)

Learn how consistent intake and assessment tools can drive smarter service delivery, align partners, and strengthen support for underserved businesses across the CUBS network. **Presenters:** Heather Marciniac, Kira Nolan, MassCEC; Olivia Antonelli, MassMEP; Samalid Hogan, Boston Impact Initiative

Session 1C ▪ Turning Curriculum into Impact: A Workshop on Powering the Future (Rm 103)

Explore practical strategies and shared lessons for implementing the Powering the Future curriculum to maximize student engagement and strengthen career awareness outcomes. **Presenter:** Alex Schwartz, MassCEC

Session 1D ▪ Work in the Age of Anxiety: Rethinking Readiness, Retention & Resilience (Rm 104)

Gain insights into how anxiety is reshaping workforce readiness and retention, and learn practical strategies to better support participants through program design and implementation. **Presenters:** Jenna Wills, Maeve Singer, Kate Ratcliffe, MassCEC; Carlos Galvez, La Colaborativa; Charla Hixon, Worcester Community Action Council; Mario Rodrigues, MBK617

2:40-3:35 ▪ Afternoon Breakouts for Action: Strategies, Tools, and Peer Learning

Session 2A ▪ (Peer-Led Table Discussions (Ballroom)

Exchange insights, compare approaches, and surface practical solutions for strengthening impact.

Topics: **ESOL and Language Support in Career Awareness and Training** (Wincy Wu, QARI); **Municipal Leadership in the Climate Transition** (Craig Van Batenburg, ACDC EV Technician Training); **Registered Apprenticeship** (Dan Kirwin, Insulators Local 6); **Upskilling and Business Competitiveness** (Weezy Waldstein - Action For Equity)

Session 2B ▪ From Referrals to Results: Establishing Expectations for Hubs and Spokes (Rm 101)

Define shared referral practices and explore tools that help Hubs, Spokes, and MWBE-Support Grantees track participant progress, improve coordination, and turn connections into measurable outcomes. **Presenters:** Heather Marciniac, MassCEC; Amyas McKnight, BCCO

Session 2C ▪ Building the Plane Before You Fly It: Unlocking the Power of Pilots (Rm 103)

Join fellow grantees in a peer-led breakout to exchange insights, compare approaches, and surface practical solutions for strengthening clean energy career pathways and workforce impact. **Presenters:** Christina Dellaventura, MassCEC; Courtney Daly, ACE MV; David Hutchinson, Tremco Rising Stars; Kat Quigley, All in Energy; Chiderah Okoye, Transform Power Systems

Session 2D ▪ Start Smart: Engaging Employers Early for Better Clean Energy Programs (Rm 104)

Learn how early employer engagement can sharpen program design, strengthen curriculum, and create career pathways aligned with real industry needs. **Presenters:** Ben Christensen, MassCEC; Katie Crowder, MassHire North Shore; Dr. Jose Perez, Roads Consulting; Alexandra Bullen Coutts, ACE MV; David Sprague, Nelson Mechanical Design

