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Puget Sound workers to be trained in energy efficiency

SEATTLE— Almost 500 individuals will be trained for energy efficiency, thanks to a \$3.9 million Recovery Act grant.

The grant for the Sound Energy Efficiency Development (SEED) project was announced this week by the U.S. Department of Labor.

The Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County will manage most of the funding on behalf of the grantee, the Northwest Energy Efficiency Council (NEEC). The project is a partnership of multiple cities, counties, colleges, workforce agencies, labor unions and others in Puget Sound.

Approximately 473 people in the Puget Sound region will be trained, earning industry-recognized certificates in residential energy auditing, building operator, and OSHA safety. The project will work closely with participants to place them in energy efficiency occupations.

The Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County (WDC) will manage about \$3.3 million. Most will be subcontracted to service providers including:

- Three community and technical colleges in Seattle and King County
- Sustainable Works
- Seattle Jobs Initiative
- Martin Luther King County Labor Council, AFL-CIO
- Workforce development councils and colleges in Snohomish, Pierce, Clallam and Kitsap counties

The project partners are also bringing \$1.25 million in leveraged funding from local, state and federal sources to coordinate and enhance SEED services.

The grant is one of the Energy Training Partnership Grants released competitively under the Recovery Act (stimulus). The SEED project partners collaborated across the entire Puget Sound region to compete for the grant. Nationwide, 25 projects won awards, ranging from approximately \$1.4 to \$5 million each.

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The **Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County** (www.seakingwdc.org) is a nonprofit workforce “think tank” and grant-making organization that oversees employment-related programs for youth, the adult workforce and employers in King County, with the goal of a strong economy and self-sufficiency for every resident.

The **Northwest Energy Efficiency Council** (www.neec.net) is a non-profit trade association of the energy efficiency industry. NEEC member companies provide energy efficiency products and services and assist in the development and implementation of energy efficiency programs.

