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METROACTION

Alternative Financing Solutions for Small Businesses

Not sure which way to turn for Small Business Financing? Since its start in 1977, MetroAction has been a catalyst for community development in NEPA. **MetroAction's lending, training and recognition programs are helping small businesses in northeastern Pennsylvania build the strength and independence** that they need to be successful. Their programs and resources help create jobs, increase the availability of quality child care and foster the entrepreneurial spirit that our region is known for.

MetroAction serves 8 counties in NEPA. Through their many programs, MetroAction matches businesses with appropriate lending resources, provides hundreds of hours of business training and counseling and honors small business success in our communities.

In 1997, MetroAction began providing small business loans to small businesses in NEPA. MetroAction is one of the only non-profit organizations in northeastern Pennsylvania authorized to provide microloans to small businesses through the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

In addition to small business loans, MetroAction provides seminars and trainings to business owners and those interested in starting a business to help start, grow, and manage a successful business. Offerings include Business Basics, Small Business Institute, and Entrepreneurship 101. Many seminars are 'no cost' or have only small fees. **Recently, the PA CareerLink Monroe County and Lackawanna County have hosted Entrepreneurship 101.**

Counseling, mentoring, and training services are also available in such topics as **Business Plan Development, Marketing, and Business Operations.** MetroAction's website also offers a wealth of additional online sources.

For more information on MetroAction's services and loans, please visit their website or contact Desiree Ranella at 570-341-0270.

www.metroaction.org

*"Nearly 200 small businesses have received over \$2.5 million in small business loans from MetroAction."
(since 1997)*

Marcellus Shale Natural Gas Impact

From the Penn State Cooperative Extension Website,
<http://naturalgas.extension.psu.edu>

The Marcellus Shale is the largest unconventional natural gas formation in the United States. The Shale is estimated to hold 493 trillion cubic feet of extractable natural gas currently valued at more than \$1.8 trillion. To safely extract the massive amount of natural gas trapped in the Marcellus Shale will require a truly monumental workforce. Although Pennsylvania has a long history of work in the gas and oil patch, the fact remains the scope and scale of the new shale gas extraction significantly changes the workforce requirements. The shale gas equipment is bigger, the pressures are higher, and the sheer quantity of equipment needed is much larger.

“To safely extract the massive amount of natural gas trapped in the Marcellus Shale will require a truly monumental workforce.”

In an effort to help meet the new demand, a partnership between Penn State Cooperative Extension and the Pennsylvania College of Technology has been developed around the newly created Marcellus Shale Education and Training Center (MSETC). Early in the development of the MSETC a small grant funded a Marcellus Shale Direct Workforce Needs Assessment (www.msetc.org). The assessment found two issues of critical importance to the future of the development of the Marcellus Shale. First a massive number of workers will be needed, and second there are limited educational opportunities and, in some cases organizations, available to offer natural gas training.

The Assessment found more than 410 different individuals working in 150 different occupations are needed to complete each Marcellus well equaling approximately 11.53 full-time equivalent jobs during pre-drilling and drilling phases of development and .17 jobs in the production phase. At the peak of the Barnett Shale Development in Texas 2,500-3,000 wells were drilled each year. Using the MSETC Direct Workforce Assessment approximately 28,825-34,590 direct full-time jobs would have been created for pre-drilling and drilling activities and 425-510 jobs each year for long term natural gas production. In fact, if the number of drilling rigs in Pennsylvania approach 250 as was seen in the Barnett Shale, the 2000 Census estimate of industry employment for the category agriculture, forestry or mining could increase by as much as 63% in Pennsylvania over the next 5-years driven just by growth in natural gas extraction.

About Penn State Cooperative Extension

In every Pennsylvania community, Penn State Cooperative Extension’s county-based educators work in combination with Penn State University professors to provide informal education that helps people, communities, businesses, and government solve their problems and reach their fullest potential.

Penn State Cooperative Extension’s Marcellus Education Team is a group of more than 40 county-based educators and faculty who are teaching about and researching the wide range of issues arising from Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling.

To learn more, visit :

- <http://naturalgas.extension.psu.edu>
- www.pamarcellus.com
- www.dep.state.pa.us



PA Receives \$6 Million to Help Energy Sector Identify and Prepare Workers for Green Careers

Workers preparing for green careers in Pennsylvania will have more resources to help them succeed, thanks to a \$6 million federal Recovery Act grant announced on January 20th by Governor Edward G. Rendell.

"Industries and employers focused on developing renewable and sustainable energy sources are playing a significant role in our economic recovery and are critical to our long-term success," Governor Rendell said. "This grant will be used to intensify our efforts to identify occupations and develop training opportunities for Pennsylvanians, helping them to achieve success and earn good wages in those important industries."

The Department of Labor & Industry and Workforce Investment Boards, in partnership with employers and other workforce development professionals, will use the funds to identify green careers, create training programs and connect the workforce with green industry employers. The funding comes from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Energy Sector Partnership & Training program.

"The green sector is an essential contributor to our continued economic recovery, for Pennsylvania and the nation," Governor Rendell said. "We must continue to invest in education and training to meet the growing needs of this critical sector."

More information on Pennsylvania's workforce development systems is available online at www.paworkforce.state.pa.us.

To learn more about how Recovery Act funds are benefiting Pennsylvania residents and businesses, visit www.recovery.pa.gov.



"The green sector is an essential contributor to our continued economic recovery, for Pennsylvania and the nation."

Weatherization Assistance and Training

The **Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry is working in partnership with the Department of Community & Economic Development to develop a Weatherization Assistance Program Training Plan.** The purpose of the plan is to identify, train and certify Pennsylvania workers to complete significant and high-quality energy reduction, conservation and weatherization activities in approximately 29,000 single- and multi-family units in communities across Pennsylvania. Additionally, the training plan is targeted to provide improved employment opportunities and offer an energy reduction, conservation and weatherization career ladder to Pennsylvania's unemployed and disadvantaged residents.

Governor Rendell announced the recipients of **\$1.1 million in Weatherization Training Provider grants** on Oct. 28, 2009. Providers, such as Johnson College, are **preparing to train more than 1,000 Pennsylvanians** to become weatherization installers, crew chiefs and auditors. Interested candidates recently attended Weatherization Training Orientations at local PA CareerLink Offices (held in Monroe County on January 20th) to learn more about training and employment opportunities. Those interested in pursuing will go through initial online assessments (WIN and WorkKeys) and those that successfully pass will go on to receive physical examinations---after which they will receive a training voucher to attend a formalized training program at Johnson College. More information on Weatherization Assistance and Training can be found at:

http://www.paworkforce.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/recovery_act_workforce_information/12868/weatherization_assistance_and_training/575047

News and Events...



Hundreds of Thousands are Needed for Temporary Jobs!!!!

These short-term jobs offer good pay, flexible hours, paid training, and reimbursement for authorized work-related expenses.

TESTING FOR JOB SEEKERS IS STILL BEING HELD AT THE PA CAREERLINK CARBON COUNTY AND MONROE COUNTY, AND PIKE COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ON VARIOUS DATES IN FEBRUARY...

Wayne County Job Training and Veterans Affairs and PA CareerLink Services of Wayne County
HAVE A NEW OFFICE!!!

On February 5th, 2010, a Ribbon Cutting will be held on-site to celebrate their new home at 308 10th St. in Honesdale.

The new location will allow for expanded services to job seekers and employers!!!



COMING SOON!!!!

CareerLink Employers will be able to access **INTERVIEW STREAM** to conduct “Virtual Job Fairs” - Watch Job Seekers’ interviews from the comfort of your office!



CAREER Quest

The 8th Annual CAREER Quest—A Job Fair and More!—will be held on **April 13, 2010** At Fernwood Resort in Bushkill.

The Event will run from 10 AM - 4 PM. If you are Looking for Employees or Your Next Job...

THIS IS THE PLACE TO BE!

Employers---TO REGISTER Please Call 570-620-2958.



Pocono Mountains Hospitality Scholarship Golf Tournament 2010

PA CareerLink Monroe County and the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau are hosting a Golf Tournament at Skytop Lodge on **June 23, 2010**. Interested in Sponsorship Packages or golfing in the tournament?

Contact John Casella at 570-620-2960 Proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit local students who will be entering post-secondary education in the field of Hospitality and Tourism.