Green Jobs Training

A Catalog of Training Opportunities for Green Infrastructure Technologies

www.epa.gov/greeninfrastructure
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The implementation of green infrastructure in wet weather management programs across the country is creating the potential for a new wave of jobs. The potential is notable, not just for initial design and installation of practices such as bioretention and permeable pavements, but also for long-term operation and maintenance.

The Green Infrastructure Wet Weather initiative has identified a small handful of certification and training programs for these newer technologies (e.g., permeable concrete; green roofs), but the demand for skilled designers and installers currently seems to outweigh the supply in many regions of the country. In addition, inspecting, operating and maintaining this wide variety of practices on private and public properties will create new job opportunities in both the public and private sector.

New training and certification standards and programs are necessary to meet the increasing and projected demand. University curricula in fields such as engineering and landscape architecture will need to adapt to meet design needs. Training and certification programs developed by many commercial, public and private sectors will be needed to ensure effective installation of a variety of practices. Training in operation and maintenance will also be a significant need for municipal public works departments, private property owners, and others with O&M responsibilities.

U.S. EPA and other Green Infrastructure partners are working to identify needs; develop capacity for particular technological skills; and encourage and facilitate new training and certification programs related to the management of wet weather using green infrastructure.

This catalog is intended to provide a central link to a wide variety of training opportunities, including those of colleges and universities, non-profits, trade organizations, state certification programs, training grants and more. One page fact sheets on each program provide an overview and a link to where additional information can be found. As we become aware of additional relevant training opportunities we shall include them in this catalog. Inclusion in this catalog does not convey EPA endorsement of the quality or content of the program.
Managing Wet Weather with Green Infrastructure

Green Jobs Training Opportunities Catalog

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National Training & Certification Programs
Program Summary
American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association (ARCSA) provides a training process to members to set a minimum level of demonstrated knowledge of rainwater catchment systems, called the ARCSA Accredited Professional (ARCSA AP) course. The purpose of accreditation is to recognize individuals who have demonstrated a competency of general knowledge and experience to provide advice and/or assistance in the use of rainwater capture.

To become accredited, you must:
- Be a member of ARCSA;
- Submit an application detailing experience and background in the subject;
- Pass a written exam;
- Participate in an ARCSA-approved workshop; and
- Pay an accreditation fee.

Accredited Professionals will receive a certificate and be recognized on the ARCSA website. ARCSA's accreditation course is not required by any state or municipality for designers or installers of rainwater catchment systems.

Recertification
Accredited Professionals must maintain their ARCSA membership, complete annual CEU requirements, and renew their accreditation status with a nominal processing fee every 2 years.

More Info: http://www.arcsa.org(cert.html)
Watershed and Stormwater Training: Center for Watershed Protection

Provided By:  Center for Watershed Protection

Training: Yes  Certification: No  Grant: No

Program Summary
This program has institutes, training workshops and presentations, and distance learning aimed at improving the technical expertise and results of local staff, consultants, watershed groups, and other watershed managers.

The Watershed Institute and Stormwater Institute are 3-5 day intensive training sessions aimed at giving a limited number of participants the skills and tools to assess, design, and implement effective restoration programs in their home watersheds. Institutes consist of classroom time, design exercises, and field visits. 12 Institutes have been organized between 2002 and 2007 in eight states.

Workshops can be tailored to meet the needs of a wide range of audiences and typically include: presentations on four or five topics, an interactive exercise developed for the audience, a discussion, a field trip, and local guest speakers.

The Introduction to Urban Watersheds distance class includes an overview of watershed hydrology, geomorphology, water quality, and biology, the impact of the land development process on these systems, and an introduction to watershed management methods.

Discounts are available for nonprofit organizations.

LEED Certification: Green Building Certification Institute

Provided By: Green Building Certification Institute

Training: No  Certification: Yes  Grant: No

Program Summary
The LEED Accredited Professional (LEED AP) credential is awarded to building industry professionals who have demonstrated a thorough understanding of green building, LEED® Green Building Rating System™, and the knowledge and skills to facilitate the LEED certification process. LEED certification provides independent, third-party verification that a building project meets the highest green building and performance measures. All certified projects receive a LEED plaque, which is the nationally recognized symbol demonstrating that a building is environmentally responsible, profitable and a healthy place to live and work.

LEED Professional Accreditation is a voluntary designation and achieved by passing the LEED Professional Accreditation exam. The LEED AP Candidate Handbook (PDF) is a complete resource for exam policies, guidelines, and tips. The Green Building Certification Institute recommends that LEED AP candidates have building industry knowledge, as well as experience working with green building professionals from multiple disciplines. The US Green Building Council also offers courses to help you increase your knowledge and prepare for the exam.

Green Plumbing: GreenPlumbers® USA

Provided By:  GreenPlumbers® USA

Training: Yes  Certification: Yes  Grant: No

Program Summary
GreenPlumbers® national training and accreditation program seeks to provide environmental training for existing journey-level plumbers, contractors, and professionals in the industry. The program is supported in part by government, utility and manufacturer partnerships. The organization’s goal is to train plumbers to promote the benefits of water conservation and the reduction of green house gas emissions. The focus is on changing consumer and plumbing behavior through the use of energy efficiency and water saving technologies. As a grassroots effort, the plan is a voluntary one that can be implemented quickly without legislation or regulation. GreenPlumbers® training consists of a five-course, 32 hour, accreditation in environmental and technical issues including Climate Care (8 hrs), Caring For Our Water (8 hrs), Solar Hot Water (4 hrs), Water Efficient Technology (8 hrs), and an Inspection Report Service(4 hrs).

Recertification
Recertification not required, though courses are expanded and updated to meet industry and policy needs

Green Roofs: Green Roofs for Healthy Cities

Provided By: Green Roofs for Healthy Cities (GRHC)

Training: Yes Certification: Yes Grant: No

Program Summary
The Green Roofs for Healthy Cities (GRHC) offers four key courses titled Green Roof Design, Green Roof Design and Implementation, Green Roof Waterproofing and Drainage, and Green Roof Plants and Media. These courses were developed by multidisciplinary committees with experts in fields of civil and structural engineering, architecture, horticulture, roofing and waterproofing, and landscape architecture. Courses are offered in over 30 cities nationwide.

Based on developed Occupational Standards, GRHC also offers an accredited exam to become a certified Green Roof Professional (GRP). The exam is based on the knowledge attained in the four courses. Passing the exam will demonstrate a level of knowledge and skill deemed important by the green roof industry. The exam will be offered at the 7th Annual Greening Rooftops for Sustainable Communities Conference, June 5th, in Atlanta, Georgia, and will be offered in the fall of 2009 in the following cities: Toronto, Seattle, New York, and Chicago. The registration cost is $395 US.

Recertification
Standing in the program will be maintained by obtaining a minimum of 16 continuing education credits every two years. Eight of these credits will be for GRHC related activities including conference and courses. Guidelines for the other 8 credits will be available by the end of 2008. An annual fee (yet to be determined) will also be required. This fee will be at a reduced rate for GRHC members.

Program Summary
The goal of this certification program is to ensure that knowledgeable contractors are selected to place the product and thereby minimize the chance for failure. The program is designed to be administered locally by local sponsoring groups in conjunction with planned training sessions or demonstrations of pervious concrete placement. NRMCA provides certification exams and performance evaluations to approved local sponsoring groups for administering the certification.

Three levels of certification are available:
1. A Pervious Concrete Technician is a person who demonstrated knowledge about proper procedures to place, compact, finish, edge, joint, cure and protect pervious concrete pavements, but who lacks the requisite field experience to qualify as a pervious concrete Installer or Craftsman.
2. A Pervious Concrete Installer is a person who has demonstrated the ability to place, compact, finish, edge, joint, cure and protect pervious concrete pavements and has documented a limited project-based field experience in placing pervious concrete.
3. A Pervious Concrete Craftsman is a person who has demonstrated the ability to place, compact, finish, edge, joint, cure and protect pervious concrete pavements and has documented a higher level of field time-based experience in placing pervious concrete.

The program requires knowledge in the following areas of concrete construction:
1. Basic concrete technology
2. Pervious concrete materials and mix proportioning
3. Proper use of tools and equipment
4. General design principles of pervious concrete pavements
5. Pervious concrete construction
6. Maintenance and troubleshooting

Recertification
Recertification is required every five years and requires successful completion of a written examination.

More Information: http://www.nrmca.org/certifications/pervious/
Wetland Training: Wetland Training Institute

Provided By:  Wetland Training Institute (WTI)

Training: Yes  Certification: No  Grant: No

Program Summary
The Wetland Training Institute (WTI) offers several courses for 2009 in the following categories: Wetland Delineation, Policy, Functional Assessment, Advanced Technical Courses, Wetland Construction and Restoration, and Plants. The courses range in length from 1 to 6 days and cost anywhere from $260 to $1400. Many of these courses satisfy requirements of certification programs in many states.

WTI also offers the following courses in conjunction with Portland State University: Basic Wetland Delineation, Regional Supplement Training, and Hydric Soil Indicators for Regional Supplements.

You may also inquire about having WTI teach a specific course that is not found in the course listing.

Program Summary
The Wild Ones Ecoscaper Certification Program consists of three educational levels plus continuing education criteria. These levels have been structured to lay the groundwork for basic knowledge about native landscaping through basic test questions. Once completed correctly, participants apply their knowledge in specific fieldwork aimed at enhancing ecoscaping abilities. The levels contain a written test along with fieldwork and a project to complete the certification requirements. The intent is to provide a process for self-education about native landscaping, with a goal toward applying knowledge as an advocate for native plants and natural landscaping in local neighborhoods and communities.

Certification is awarded when all three parts of the level are submitted for review and accepted.

- Level 1 covers the basics of native landscaping including Wild Ones philosophy, and should be completed within a two-year period of time.
- Level 2 reaches beyond the basics and into some more challenging experiences outside of your backyard, and should be completed within a two-year period of time.
- Level 3 gets you thinking more on your own and out into the community, and should be completed within a two-year period of time.

Recertification
The continuing education level requires more formal educational efforts along with fieldwork and a project to accomplish completion of certification requirements. This is an annual requirement to keep Ecoscaper certification current.

Apprenticeship Programs
District of Columbia: Green Roofs

Provided By: D.C. Greenworks

Training: Yes  
Certification: No  
Grant: Possible

Program Summary
D.C Greenworks recognizes the importance of ecology and economy as well as the strong need for clean and green communities. By providing education, job training, and employment opportunities, together with various partners, D.C. Greenworks helps to build a workforce of individuals trained in urban landscape management. Participants learn all components of green roof design, installation, operation and maintenance. D.C. Greenworks provides on-the-job greenroof and horticulture apprenticeship programs and hands-on landscaping and low impact development installation projects in an easy and fun atmosphere.

Upon completion of the training/apprenticeship programs D.C Greenworks provides job placement in areas such as landscaping, park maintenance, and nursery work. To date, twenty-seven people have received green roof training.

More Information: http://www.dcgreenworks.org (search under Outreach & Advocacy)
District of Columbia: Urban Forestry

Provided By: Casey Trees Washington D.C.

Training: Yes   Certification: No   Grant: No

Program Summary
Casey Trees hires D.C. high school students every summer as paid Urban Forestry Interns to help “regreen” D.C. neighborhoods. The student interns learn about trees and how to care for them. The interns then apply what they learn outdoors in the local communities, at the same time teaching local residents how to do the same. A healthy urban tree community can play a significant role in managing stormwater. Casey Trees has three main goals of the interns:

• Gain job experience
• Learn about a wide range of forestry and environmental careers
• Become stewards for trees planted by Casey Trees

The focus of Casey Trees is to help the youth of today learn and develop a future for their tomorrow.

Applicants must meet the following qualifications:

• A District of Columbia resident currently enrolled in a DC high school.
• 16 years or older.
• Motivation to learn.
• Demonstrated interest in DC’s environment.
• Show a willingness to represent Casey Trees as a professional in conduct and appearance.
• Have a strong work ethic and the physical ability to work hard outdoors in all weather conditions, including rain and heat.
• Show a willingness to work with a variety of landscaping tools and equipment.
• Complete an application with two references supporting qualifications for the job

College & University Programs
University of Washington: Green Futures Research & Design Lab

Provided By: University of Washington

Training: Yes Certification: No Grant: No

Program Summary
The Green Futures Lab (GFL) is housed under University of Washington’s College of Architecture and Urbana Planning, Department of Landscape Architecture. Most GFL projects are in Seattle and the Pacific Northwest Area; however, their Global Green Lecture Series features prominent international speakers from the field of green infrastructure.

The mission of the Green Futures Lab is to:
- Support interdisciplinary research and design that advances our understanding of, visions for, and design of an ecologically sustainable public realm.
- Apply Green Futures research and designs to policy development and potential solutions for urban green infrastructure within Seattle and the Pacific Northwest region.
- Work with the University of Washington, local communities and international partners to provide education and collaboration around urban green infrastructure and a sustainable public realm.

The GFL is developing a Green Infrastructure Resource Center to provide professionals, students, and community members with resources about key green infrastructure systems: water, habitat, low-impact mobility, community spaces, and low carbon energy for a healthy climate.

Physically housed in Gould Hall room 102 on the University campus, the Green Infrastructure Resource Center exhibits valuable reference and demonstration materials. The GFL website has additional online resources available.

U.S. EPA Brownfields Training, Research, and Technical Assistance

Provided By: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Training: Possible Certification: No Grant: Yes

Program Summary
EPA’s Brownfields Program empowers states, tribes, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. EPA funds eligible applicants through assistance agreements to provide training, research, and technical assistance to facilitate brownfields revitalization.

EPA’s Brownfield program has designated two grantee organizations to lead projects and training that may have green infrastructure components:

- Sustainable Community Development Group, Inc. and the National Conference of Black Mayors have partnered to develop and implement the Greening of Brownfields Program, which will demonstrate how mayors can reuse idle properties in ways that address equity and community issues. This program covers green designs, buildings, and technologies; energy conservation; recycling; relevant certification programs; and employment options in green collar jobs.
  - More information: http://www.sustainablecommunitydevelopment.org
- Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute established the Brownfields to Greenfields Program to provide assistance to communities across the country in establishing equitable and sustainable brownfields job development and training programs. This project provides community residents with education and information regarding sustainable, renewable, and green practices.
State Programs and Resources
California: Green Building Professional Training

Provided By: Build It Green

Training: Yes Certification: Yes Grant: No

Program Summary
The Certified Green Building Professional (CGBP) training is open to all California building professionals involved in the design and construction of residential buildings, as well as to professionals that support and develop the market for green building.

Attendance at each session of the CGBP training and a passing grade on the final exam (80%) are required to earn certification. Participants who miss a session must attend that session at a future CGBP training within 12 months before they can take the final exam and become certified.

All graduates of the CGBP training may choose to become affiliates of the Green Building Professionals Guild. Various chapters of the Guild meet every month and provide continuing education and networking opportunities.

Build It Green promotes CGBPs via the CGBP Directory. California homeowners turn to this online directory to locate professionals qualified to design and construct their new home or renovation projects.

Recertification
Certification is valid for two years, and recertification is required to keep certification current.

More Information: http://www.builditgreen.org/cgbp
District of Columbia: River Restoration

Provided By: Earth Conservation Corps

Training: Yes  Certification: No  Grant: No

Program Summary
The Earth Conservation Corps is a nonprofit organization whose main focus is on Anacostia’s youth and engaging them to become corps members by showing them how they can improve the quality of their own lives. Earth Conservation Corps is a non-profit organization that partners with various organizations in an effort to restore the Anacostia River. By involving the youth in the restoration process, they will become socially active in the environmental and economic health of their community.

ECC members dedicate 1700 hours to cleaning up the environment, including river clean ups, protecting endangered wildlife, and providing community service. Corps members receive a stipend, health insurance, child care benefits, and roughly $5000 scholarship.

District of Columbia: Green Building Training

Provided By: GreenHOME

Training: Yes Certification: Possible Grant: Yes

Program Summary
Based in Washington D.C, GreenHOME focuses on providing training in green affordable housing and to create a workforce of building professionals, lenders, investors, developers, etc. that will have the knowhow to build better functioning buildings and communities by “thinking green”. The programs are structured on the interests of each audience as well as providing multiple workshops and technical assistance. The trainees will have the opportunity to learn from others who have already built successful affordable housing projects and in turn apply their new skills to their own projects.

Training programs consist of learning about:
- Efficient components and systems
- Green practices for advanced design and construction methods
- Affordable construction practices and its benefits

These key aspects and practices are just a few of the various components that comprise the training programs and workshops.

Not only does GreenHOME provide training to architects, developers, government staff, and other professionals, they also offer Project-based and Technical Assistance Grants to meet the requirements of the Green Building Act.

GreenHOME is working in partnership with groups such as DC Greenworks, DC Appleseed, and Casey Trees to create incentives for low-impact development: from green roofs and construction best practices for buildings to porous pavement and tree and rain garden plantings that can transform whole neighborhoods.

More Information:
http://www.greenhome.org/about/work/providing_expertise.html
Illinois: Chicagoland Green Collar Jobs Initiative

Provided By: Chicagoland Green Collar Jobs Initiative

Training: Yes  Certification: No  Grant: No

Program Summary
The mission of Chicagoland Green Collar Initiative is to facilitate the development of a skilled workforce that is ready to meet employer demands in the emerging “green” economy and to capture new employment opportunities for Chicagoland workers.

The Initiative is exploring and identifying employment and job training opportunities to prepare workers for emerging green jobs related to sustainability, natural resource conservation and environmental related technology. The target audience for a new green collar jobs program includes: unskilled, unemployed or underemployed individuals, and incumbent workers requiring updated training for new technologies. Based on their initial research, some of the prevalent green collar jobs include: energy raters for homes and commercial buildings; green cleaning and building maintenance staff; alternative energy service providers (solar, wind, geo-thermal); installer/maintenance of stormwater management systems (green roof, permeable pavement, rain water collection); urban agriculture (landscaping, farming, apiculture) and green-related services (recycling, retail, manufacturing).

Future work will focus on selecting two promising job types and drafting a program development plan for these jobs that will serve as a program model for additional job and career selections. The model will identify program components to be developed including job readiness, participant support services, career counseling, training classes that link existing programs as well as new classes to be developed on a career path, curriculum development needs, employment, retention and advancement training. Strong emphasis will be on mapping a career path and gaining the training, credentials and work experience necessary to advance.

Chicagoland Green Collar Jobs Summit will be held in March 2009.

Illinois: GreenCorps Chicago

Provided By: City of Chicago, Illinois

Training: Yes  Certification: No  Grant: No

Program Summary
GreenCorps Chicago’s mission is to improve the quality of life throughout Chicago by providing horticultural instruction, materials and employment. Greencorps Chicago is a program of the City of Chicago Department of Environment (DOE) in partnership with WRD Environmental.

Greencorps Chicago offers workshops, plant materials, technical assistance and educational programs. Organizations working in a public space, including schools, faith institutions, libraries, public housing communities and block clubs, may participate in program activities. Each spring, Greencorps Chicago hires approximately 50 people into its six-month landscaping training program.

Iowa: Conservation Corps

Provided By: Conservation Corps Minnesota

Training: Yes  Certification: No  Grant: No

Program Summary
Conservation Corps Iowa is a program of the Minnesota Conservation Corps, a non-profit organization, and corps members work as part of a 5 person crew. The crews work throughout Iowa and the Upper Midwest to complete natural resource-based projects on public land. Crew members are enrolled in AmeriCorps, and therefore receive a stipend and healthcare benefits. The crew’s work schedule is from mid-February to mid-December; approximately 20% of this time is dedicated to learning positive workplace behaviors and technical work skills. Through on-the-job training, the Conservation Corps prepares members for natural resource and other technical fields. This year’s Conservation Corps will be focusing on stormwater control measures, such as rain garden installation. The crew also gains experience in erosion control, fire suppression and prescribed burning, tree and plant surveys, water quality sampling and monitoring, and general construction and carpentry skills.

More Information: http://www.conservationcorps.org/  Iowa crew manager is Chris Severson: chris.severson@conservationcorp.org
Iowa: Rainscaping Iowa

Provided By: Iowa Stormwater Partnership

Training: Yes          Certification: Yes           Grant: No

Program Summary

More Information: Website in development
Maryland: Green Infrastructure Training

Provided By:  Green Building Institute

Training: Yes  Certification: No  Grant: No

Program Summary
The Green Building Institute’s mission is to foster sustainable building practices through education and example. Courses are taught by experienced professionals from the private and non-profit sectors, at the Green Building Institute or at partnering local colleges. The Institute offers green infrastructure courses on topics such as water harvesting, living roof and living walls, rain gardens and water stewardship.

For example, topics covered in the rain garden course include:
• Installing a Rain Barrel
• Selecting the proper Rain Garden Location
• Soils and Drainage on your Property
• Sizing of Your Rain Garden
• Rain Garden Construction
• Selecting the Plants for your Rain Garden
• Maintaining your Rain Garden

Course costs range from $20 to $80.

Maryland: Native Landscaping and Conservation Skills

Provided By:  Maryland Civic Justice Corps

Training: Yes  Certification: No  Grant: No

Program Summary
Maryland Civic Justice Corps has partnered with Baltimore City to provide hands-on conservation work to Baltimore youth at Maryland State Parks. The program provides the opportunity for youths to be outside during the summer learning new skills such as, building bridges and trails, and the knowhow to protect, conserve, and restore natural resources. Learning basic construction and landscaping skills will enable future growth in park service careers.

The program divides the youth into 12 crews with each crew consisting of 8 individuals while under the supervision of a Crew Chief. Each morning, bus transportation will depart Baltimore city at 7:00am and return back to the city at 3:30pm. The individual will receive $6.55 for each hour of service provided, along with a work uniform, breakfast snack, lunch, and afternoon snack.

More Information:  http://www.dnr.state.md.us/cjc/program.html
New York: Bronx Environmental Stewardship Training

Provided By: Sustainable South Bronx

Training: Yes  Certification: Yes  Grant: No

Program Summary
Sustainable South Bronx (SSBx), an environmental justice organization, addresses land-use, energy, transportation, water and waste policy, and education to advance the environmental and economic rebirth of the South Bronx. SSBx also directs the Bronx Environmental Stewardship Training (BEST) program, one of the nation’s first and most successful green-collar job training & placement systems. Students graduate with several certifications, job readiness preparation, and a powerful environmental justice perspective on all of the important work they are qualified to do. Nearly all of the students were on some form of public assistance, and about half have prison records. This 14-16-week program is free to qualified applicants. BEST works with their graduates to help them find the right job as well as tracking their progress for 3 years in case they need help finding their place in this growing and rewarding job market. Now in its 5th year of operation, over 80% are employed and 15% have gone on to higher education.

BEST participants receive hands-on training in green roof installation and maintenance, brownfield remediation, wetland restoration, landscapint, and many other green skills. SmartRoofs, LLC is a subsidiary of SSBx, and solely employs graduates of this program to install and maintain the green roofs they design.

North Carolina: Stormwater BMP Inspection and Maintenance Certification

Provided By: North Carolina State University

Training: Yes Certification: Yes Grant: No

Program Summary
The goal of this training is to provide managers of stormwater facilities in North Carolina with appropriate training on inspection and maintenance of common technologies such as retention ponds, bioretention areas, stormwater wetlands, permeable pavement, and level spreaders. These devices must have annual maintenance to continue to function properly. Goals of the training include:

- Understand stormwater and how it affects drinking water quality
- Understand stormwater management devices used in North Carolina and how they function
- Understand maintenance requirements of each stormwater practice
- Be eligible to take a test at the conclusion of the training to be certified

This workshop offers 7 PDHs (professional development hours) for professional engineers and surveyors, authorized by the NC Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors. Other professionals may appeal to their respective boards to obtain professional education credits.

More Information:
http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/stormwater/training/bmpworkshop.html