



For Immediate Release

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Life-Changing Green Jobs Training Program Launching in Baltimore

Program will provide high-quality training to unemployed or underemployed city residents

ELLICOTT CITY, Md. (May 18, 2017) – Ten Baltimore City residents struggling to find work have been selected to participate in an inaugural training program to build successful careers in the “green” stormwater industry. The Clean Water Certificate Training Program launches in Baltimore City tomorrow, thanks to a partnership between Civic Works and the Center for Watershed Protection.

“Not only will this program benefit the environment and the Baltimore City economy, it also will change the futures of these 10 individuals,” said Neely Law, Director of Education and Training, Center for Watershed Protection. “What’s more, they are satisfying a critical need in this industry: stormwater employers have significant hiring needs for skilled individuals, which they expect to be met by this training program.”

Stormwater runoff is a major cause of water pollution in urban areas because the existing infrastructure – conventional drainage pipes – just moves water with its trash and bacteria into nearby rivers and bays. “Green” stormwater infrastructure augments the conventional system with such things as roof gardens, permeable pavement and green streets, alleys and parking lots to reduce and treat stormwater at its source.

The new training certificate program, developed by the Center for Watershed Protection, includes classroom learning, hands-on activities and field-based assessments to allow program participants to acquire core skills and knowledge in the construction, maintenance and inspection of green stormwater infrastructure. The three-week program will run from May 19 through June 16. Funding for the program was provided by The Campbell Foundation, France-Merrick Foundation and Prince Charitable Trusts.

“This curriculum is equivalent to a few years of job training,” said Michael Peny, a stormwater industry professional of Angler Environmental, a Resource Environmental Solutions (RES) company. “The training provides the basic skills and knowledge an entry-level employee needs to have on the job site, and covers additional areas that will provide opportunities for advancement.”

Participants were selected through a rigorous application process. They were unemployed or underemployed at the time of enrollment and were selected for their drive, motivation and commitment to pursuing a career in stormwater management. Participants will acquire core skills and learn about construction, maintenance and inspection of green infrastructure stormwater best management practices that are relevant on any site, not just Maryland.

The three-week technical stormwater training is part of a comprehensive three-month workforce development program provided by Civic Works, which began May 2, to include essential skills training, workplace safety and on-the-job training.

“The partnership between Civic Works and the Center for Watershed Protections, along with feedback from the stormwater industry, is key to the success of this program,” said Eli Allen, Director of Civic Works’ Baltimore Center for Green Careers. “The three training components — stormwater industry knowledge, technical skills and work experience — are the trifecta that will provide participants with the greatest opportunity to secure a living wage job. In order to translate a training program into a job and successful career, these participants need technical skills but also help in securing job placement and workplace skills.”

Civic Works will help participants develop their resumes and hone their interview skills before scheduling and facilitating the interview process with stormwater employer partners. Successful program graduates will be placed directly into family-supporting stormwater positions with opportunities for advancement.

“Our goal is to expand the program across the U.S. and build a network of workforce development and training programs,” added Law. “The Clean Water Certificate training model has great potential to translate to other areas of stormwater management.”