Xcel Energy®
PARTNERS IN ENERGY
Collaborating to Support Clean Energy Careers

CLEAN ENERGY CAREERS PROGRAM

2026-2027

Clean Energy Careers strengthens Colorado's clean energy workforce by investing in workforce partners, supporting Xcel Energy Trade Partners, and advancing strategic initiatives in order to expand workforce capacity, create career opportunities, and address emerging industry needs.

GRANTEES

The following organizations have been awarded grants for Clean Energy Career's 2026-2027 program year.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

COLORADO MOUNTAIN COLLEGE (CMC), RIFLE

After a successful 2025-2026 Clean Energy Careers program year, CMC will expand its HVAC heat pump training program to Rifle. Program expansion includes the purchase of hands-on instructional equipment and materials to simulate real-world scenarios, as well as adding six HVAC courses to reach more students at the Rifle campus.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF AURORA (CCA), COMMERCE CITY

In collaboration with the city of Commerce City and community organizations, CCA will launch a new workforce training program to provide continuous open-lab instruction in HVAC fundamentals, heat pump installation and service, weatherization, and energy efficiency principles.

NORTHWEST COLORADO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (NWCCOG), GYPSUM

NWCCOG will expand its Building Performance Institute (BPI)-certified training facility, with the construction of an Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) training platform and an attic training space. With this expanded facility, NWCCOG will offer four training courses: BPI Infiltration and Duct Leakage (IDL), Insulation, BPI Building Analyst Professional Certification, and Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) training.

WRAP AROUND SERVICES

AFRICAN AMERICAN TRADE ASSOCIATION (AATA), DENVER

AATA will serve more students with supportive services in their HVAC pre-apprenticeship program, BPI weatherization program and HVACR registered apprenticeship by providing stipends, case management, coaching and tutoring.

CROSSPURPOSE, DENVER

CrossPurpose will expand support for participants enrolled in its HVAC pre-apprenticeship program with stipends, health education sessions and intensive coaching.

TRADE PARTNER SUPPORT: YOUTH OUTREACH

Clean Energy Careers is providing stipends to the following 17 registered Xcel Energy Trade Partners to conduct outreach to middle and high schools and build the next generation of clean energy workers.

1. Brad Plunkett, Mountain West Heat Pumps
2. Brendan McCarthy, Intramountain Retrofit
3. Corrie Morley, Koala Insulation of Denver
4. Elizabeth McBurney, McBurney Built
5. Eric Lovey, Beyond Green
6. Jason Altuser, My Electric Home
7. Jesse Woodman, Slash Energy Upgrades
8. Jessica Hoover, High Country Conservation Center
9. Justin Wiseman, Wise Owl Energy
10. Mario Garcia, 360 HVAC PRO
11. Mark Anderson, EnergySmart
12. Melissa Lowry & BJ, American Air Heating & Air Conditioning
13. Nathan Speerstra, Northwest Colorado Council of Governments
14. Nick Byk, Sawatch Home Efficiency
15. Shelby Kendall, Monarch HVAC
16. Tim Archie, High Country Healthy Efficiency Homes
17. Tom Vasselli, Major Heating and Air Conditioning

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Clean Energy Careers explores emerging workforce challenges and opportunities, helping identify innovative approaches that can strengthen Colorado's clean energy workforce over the long term.

The following organizations are collaborating with Clean Energy Careers to advance strategic initiatives and program priorities.

ENERGY SMART COLORADO

Clean Energy Careers is committed to increasing awareness of clean energy careers and helping build the next generation of skilled trade workers. To engage young people, CEC works with Xcel Energy Trade Partners to build relationships with local school districts and conduct outreach at middle and high schools. To expand these efforts and reach more students across Colorado, CEC is collaborating with Energy Smart Colorado (ESC), a nonprofit serving rural, mountain, and Western Slope communities.

AFRICAN AMERICAN TRADE ASSOCIATION (AATA), DENVER

Xcel Energy's Clean Energy Careers has launched a new HVAC Registered Apprenticeship in Colorado, bringing together Xcel Energy as the program sponsor, African American Trade Association (AATA) as the training provider (Related Instructor), and participating HVAC contractors as apprentice employers. Together, these partners are helping create pathways into HVAC careers while strengthening Colorado's skilled clean energy workforce.

This multi-employer apprenticeship is designed to be completed over three to four years. Relevant prior HVAC coursework or experience may be recognized toward program requirements.

ABOUT CLEAN ENERGY CAREERS

Clean Energy Careers is supporting and growing the workforce related to beneficial electrification. The program focuses on growing three occupations: home energy auditors, insulation and air sealing technicians, and heat pump technicians. Clean Energy Careers serves Xcel Energy's communities throughout Colorado. For more information about Clean Energy Careers, and to stay updated on future opportunities, please visit our website.