

Connecticut Geothermal Workforce Workshops – meeting minutes and recordings

Hosted by: Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships ([NEEP](#))

Licensing:

Date: May 9, 2024

- Improved clarity on certain licensing processes, such as transferring out of state experience, may be needed
- CT does not have a heat pump-only license, but based on interpretation the D3 or D4 license could cover heat pumps (covers use of refrigerants, does not explicitly exclude use of refrigerants for heating. This is not the original intention of the license, but it's a possible use)
- The industry feedback that DCP has gotten re: reducing fossil fuel training requirements for certain licenses is that it makes sense to keep them as they are. DCP is neutral
- Requirements for S1 or S2 license holders for permitting can present barriers for small heat pump companies, especially because those license holders are generally understood to be aging out.

Recording: https://neep-org.zoom.us/rec/share/kDTvGxYcqJR78oyam3aKpprrObyVhaDVuy6UUy_Xuf4hpPrVqkAeFy9_dqssaw4.H_yHvNdkhDpXFfsQ

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Training New Entrants:

Date: May 10, 2024

- Need for marketing that shows the career pathways to young people, help them see the opportunities (especially from other young people in the industry)
- IGSHPA's new modularized curricula could be brought into VoTech colleges, community colleges, and more. IGSHPA plans to pilot this
- Wrap-around services (childcare, transportation support, help getting driver's license, job readiness skills, etc.) are critical for supporting new workers from disadvantaged communities
- HVAC programs at tech schools in the state have long waiting lists, many young people are not getting the education for this industry that they'd like. Need for more resources and equipment for technical school HVAC programs. Suggestion of having geothermal heat pump manufacturers donate equipment for teaching

Recording: https://neep-org.zoom.us/rec/share/hl4_C7zbF5a-xeEthF8y7DyBitOfJn0og0manAGunFIEhUf_shrLxbPE1h6A3gnH.1edLbEZrjBFOZzH0

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General, with the CT Clean Economy Council:

Date: May 21, 2024

- Awareness and accessibility for geothermal careers are crucial, need to market the careers thoughtfully and provide wrap-around services to those who need them

- Trainings being flexible in when you can take them is an important piece for equity and accessibility
- Need to build awareness and trust of geothermal technologies (and demand) for existing HVAC contractors and drillers
 - Also need to build awareness among the building trades, to make sure they think of geothermal as an option when designing and constructing buildings
- Having the geothermal industry represented on technical school boards could help influence curriculum and awareness

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Drilling:

Date: May 22, 2024

- Local 478, International Union of Operating Engineers, plans to bring geothermal well drilling apprenticeship currently running in Chicago area to Connecticut (just needs CT Department of Labor approval)
- The pipeline/consistency of geothermal projects has a major influence on workforce development, especially with unions taking on apprentices. Unions only take as many apprentices as they believe they have full-time work for
- The Inflation Reduction Act increase of the federal geothermal tax credit does help with upfront costs, and it's especially cost effective for commercial projects (can be up to a 50% tax credit with Made in America materials and project location in an EJ community)
- In Local 478's experience, there are plenty of people willing to do the work. Just need to see the pipeline of projects in place to be able to accept them all
- Larger networked projects will help drive demand for workers, especially as utilities start being directed to do neighborhood-scale pilots

Recording: https://neep-org.zoom.us/rec/share/WV7VW4aPd2mY2NpJnO63fAp_pgNmJO7r0NF0PlsTZSDkYoMTt-AENmQA1NXJ9OXL.o-7NxNgQJ97EzMvI

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