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For immediate release

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**Northeast Energy Sector Partnership – Workforce Development Grant in
clean/green energy sectors**

The North Shore Workforce Investment Board is pleased to announce a grant from the Massachusetts State Workforce Investment Board for the Northeast Energy Sector Training Partnership (NESP).

With funds originating at the US Department of Labor American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, this grant will work to support training for the North Shore, Greater Lowell, and Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board regions' unemployed, underemployed and incumbent workers and companies in energy efficient building, construction and retrofit, renewable electric power, biofuels, energy efficiency assessment, sustainable manufacturing, environmental protection and green construction.

In association with the Massachusetts State Energy Sector Partnership (MA-SESP), NESP is a partnership of three MA workforce investment boards and one-stop career centers; businesses in the renewable energy/energy efficiency RE/EE field; three community colleges; labor representatives and may include in the future vocational-technical schools and community-based organizations. The purpose of the partnership and grant is to create an integrated system of education and training that promotes skill attainment and career pathway development benefiting both business and workers in the RE/EE sector.

Our shared objectives include:

- Build upon our commonalities as regions comprising an array of urban and suburban centers to create training and employment opportunities that avoid duplication, create economies of scale, provide access and mobility through career ladders for dislocated, disadvantaged, and incumbent workers, and help small and large businesses to flourish.
- Continue development and support (through workforce training) of current and emerging businesses in green building, biofuels, and industries that clean and enhance the environment, while increasingly capitalizing on unique strengths of our regions in the area of precision manufacturing and agriculture/forestry.

The partnership will be guided by a long-established “green ethos” in our region which goes beyond a narrow focus on clean energy or green jobs alone, to embrace the concept of a green economy in which the interconnectedness of good jobs, sustainable business, and healthy communities is recognized.

Mary Sarris, Executive Director of the North Shore Workforce Investment Board says “This funding for clean/green occupational skills training is critical to enhancing the opportunities for our workforce here on the North Shore, especially when it is related to jobs in this growing sector in the northeast region of Massachusetts.”

Key partners in this program include three Workforce Investment Boards including: North Shore WIB, Greater Lowell WIB, the Merrimack Valley WIB as well as the one-stop career centers in the region, and a diverse group of employers.

The NESP program will bring businesses, workforce development organizations and educators together with local residents to provide critical occupational training and opportunities to enter the clean/green industry and support and build our regional economy. The goal of the program is to work with over 200 individuals over the next two years in securing both employment as well as enhancing their skills.

More detailed information on this program and on other programs offered by the North Shore Workforce Investment Board is available by contacting Mary Sarris, Executive Director, at 978-741-3805.

The Massachusetts State Energy Sector Partnership is funded in whole by a \$5.973 grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration.

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