

Green Innovation Challenge

The Green Innovations Challenge grant encourages business-led partnerships to develop creative methods of increasing employment in specialties within the green economy. NOVA is the sub-recipient of a grant from the State of California for the **SolarTech Workforce Innovations Collaborative (SWIC)**. SWIC is a collaborative partnership between SolarTech, Foothill-De Anza Community College District, and the NOVA Workforce Board.

SolarTech (www.solartech.org) is an industry association with over 100 members comprised of educational institutions, cities, counties, utilities, manufacturers, integrators, financial institutions and numerous stakeholders in the renewable energy sector.

Foothill-De Anza Community College District (www.fhda.edu) located in the heart of Silicon Valley is one of the largest community college districts in the US with a mission of student success. Home to the Center for Applied Competitive Technologies in the Professional & Workforce Development unit www.deanza.edu/cact, Foothill College is a co-chair on SolarTech's Solar Workforce Development Committee.

NOVA Workforce Board (www.novaworks.org) has over a 25-year history of supporting displaced professionals in career search, employment and training. NOVA holds a seat on SolarTech's Board and has partnered with both SolarTech and the Foothill-De Anza Community College District on a two year project to train Solar Installers from the State of California's Solar Industry Driven Regional Collaborative (IDRC) grant.



SWIC Main Objectives

Objective 1: Solar Workforce Acceleration Method (WAM)

Shorten the time between industry demands and training labor supply by building a business intelligence system that provides constant feedback between industry, training providers and workforce boards who work with talent (labor supply).

Objective 2: Training

Train 245 dislocated workers and assist with placement in renewable energy generation jobs, specifically, in the Solar Industry. Trainings to be developed may include:

- Energy industry overview for transitioning skills
- Solar sales & proposal development
- Solar PV design & engineering
- Solar finance analysis & sustainability mgmt.
- Electric Vehicle solar charging station training (*in partnership with IBEW*)
- EV Living Lab (*in partnership with De Anza Automotive program*)