



State Energy Workforce Committee

Consortium Name Mississippi Energy & Industrial Construction Consortium (MEICC)

Committee Name Executive Committee

Committee Chair John Wheeler **email:** john.wheeler@yahoo.com **phone** 601-707-8856

Please provide brief descriptions and additional contact information for project lead if appropriate.

Top 3 Accomplishments:

1. Developed a definition of “Green Energy” which has been adopted by the State of Mississippi.

- Posted on meicc.org web site
- Defined to match Mississippi’s resources and opportunities for environmentally responsible energy production.
- Includes a discussion of “Green Energy Jobs” and “Shovel Ready” green energy projects.

2. Participated in the June 2009 NGA workshop on developing and implementing state sector strategies.

- Invitation was based on MEICC organizational partnerships (energy industry, construction, state agencies, educational institutions, non-profits, faith based, etc...) embracing the concept of “sector strategies”).
- Networked with other sector strategy states sharing best practices (establishing state sector boundaries, communicating and sustainability)
- Collaborated with the Mississippi state members to further develop sector policy framework (i.e., communicating the message to state agencies, local workforce boards, SWIB, legislators, state economic development, industry and career and technical institutions and building sustainability).

3. Developed two proposals for use of federal stimulus funds to aid in developing and growing the energy workforce in Mississippi.

- These were included in the state’s proposal to the US Dept of Energy for State Energy Proposals (SEPs) and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG).
- Will be elaborated upon in the Energy Sector Strategy plan.

Top 3 Activities or Plans:

1. State Energy Sector Strategy proposal (working with the Mississippi State WIB).
2. Energy Education, Training and Outreach Program
3. Improve Energy Training Laboratories and Facilities

Best Practice to Share:

- Web site for information sharing consortia meetings, documents, news, etc at meicc.org
- Strong relationships with State agencies and the Governor's Office.
- Align energy workforce activities with a highly successful implementation of a WIRED grant for skilled metalworking

Issues We Struggle With:

- Time – we're all volunteers with full-time jobs.
- Money – we're reliant on corporate sponsorships for operating resources. Thus far grant proposals (2008 CBJT) have been unsuccessful. We believe that will change soon with stimulus funds.
- Widely divergent needs of our various consortia members.