

Formed in March 2006, the Center for Energy Workforce Development (CEWD) is a non-profit consortium of electric, natural gas and nuclear utilities and their associations - Edison Electric Institute, American Gas Association, Nuclear Energy Institute, and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. CEWD was formed to help utilities work together to develop solutions to the coming workforce shortage in the utility industry.

It is the first partnership between utilities, their associations, contractors and unions to focus on the need to build a skilled workforce pipeline that will meet future industry needs. Through its membership, CEWD represents almost 75% of the nation's electric and natural gas utility employees. CEWD is led by a Board of Directors made up of the heads of the trade associations and major utilities from around the country, along with Councils of members who provide advice and guidance on strategy and goals.

Over the last 4 years, CEWD has created partnerships at the national and state level that pull together educators, government agencies and the industry to leverage resources and practices that reduce the time and effort required by an individual company. At the state level, the Center has facilitated the creation of 26 State Energy Workforce Consortia that focus on the needs of individual states in developing an energy workforce tailored to the economic, demographic and specific workforce requirements for that state. The consortia have been instrumental in implementing regional solutions to industry issues.

At both the national and state level, there are three drivers for workforce development in the industry:

- A need to balance supply and demand for the energy workforce in key job categories
- Reducing skill gaps in potential applicants
- New and emerging technologies that require additional skills

CEWD has worked to create alliances, processes and tools that address these drivers. CEWD's accomplishments are a clear illustration of the philosophy that we can create together what no one of us can accomplish alone. Major accomplishments include:

- National recognition of the need for a skilled energy workforce that covers both existing jobs as well as those we will need in the future.
- Ready to use workforce development tools that can be modified to your own region or company needs including a national career awareness website (www.getintoenergy.com) and corresponding printed branding material.
- Best Practice models on education solutions from secondary through post-secondary and the university system.
- Energy workforce data on both the demand and supply of workers.
- A workforce development structure that accelerates results at a state and local level.
- Alliances with national education and workforce organizations that have local reach.
- A national communication structure for connecting the industry to issues, solutions and workforce development experts around the country.
- The development of a broad framework for energy workforce development – the Get Into Energy Career Pathways Model.

The Industry's broad support of CEWD underscores, in a very visible manner, its strong commitment to the development of a highly skilled workforce to meet our country's energy needs.

For more information on CEWD, visit the website at www.cewd.org.