

# Bringing new talent to the clean energy industry

## Case Study

Company Name:  
BlocPower LLC

Business Type:  
Climate Technology Startup

NYSERDA Programs:  
On-the-Job Training for  
Energy Efficiency and  
Clean Technology Program

NYSERDA's Clean Energy  
Internship Program

Location:  
Brooklyn, New York

## Background

BlocPower is a Brooklyn-based climate technology startup with a mission to build a better world by upgrading buildings to be more efficient and environmentally sustainable. Since its founding in 2014, the company has retrofitted more than 1,000 buildings in disadvantaged communities in New York City, with projects underway in 24 cities throughout the State.

BlocPower works with community leaders and institutions to identify buildings of all types with high-energy usage in underserved communities. Investors and community members concerned about climate change, job creation, and community development can invest in clean energy projects through BlocPower's online platform. The company uses proprietary software for analysis, leasing, project management, and monitoring of clean energy projects that can save customers 20-70 percent on annual energy costs.

In addition, BlocPower creates jobs for underemployed workers from vulnerable populations who graduate from a rigorous, third party-certified green jobs training program at the top of their class.

## NYSERDA Workforce Training and Development Programs

NYSERDA's Clean Energy Internship and On-the-Job Training Programs work in tandem to develop and expand the clean energy workforce. As New York State navigated the COVID-19 pandemic, NYSERDA recognized the need to adapt their Workforce Development Programs to meet the diverse needs of both clean energy businesses and individuals looking for employment in this growing industry.



## **NYSERDA is supporting clean energy workforce development and training**

- On the Job Training Program: 540 hired
- Clean Energy Internship Program: 700 hired

## **BlocPower is expanding their clean energy workforce**

- On the Job Training Program: Two employees hired through the program with incentives totaling more than \$15,000
- Clean Energy Internship Program: 12 Interns hired through the program with incentives totaling more than \$65,000

“The entire process was smooth and easy to navigate. The ability to hire someone through the OJT program cuts down on costs, which means we can complete more clean energy projects.”

— Keith Kinch,  
General Manager, BlocPower

### **On-the-Job Training for Energy Efficiency and Clean Technology Program**

NYSERDA's On-the-Job Training (OJT) Program's mission is to help eligible businesses find skilled job candidates and reduce the financial risk of onboarding new employees.

### **Clean Energy Internship Program**

NYSERDA's Clean Energy Internship Program enables college students to gain experience in the clean energy industry by connecting them with businesses eager to hire clean energy employees. Through the program, students gain crucial knowledge of the industry with hands-on learning experience.

## **Participation Benefits**

NYSERDA is reducing barriers for individuals of all ages and experiences seeking employment in the clean energy industry. Both programs give clean energy businesses direct access to qualified candidates. NYSERDA encourages businesses to hire qualified interns through the OJT Program following successful completion of their internship.

When asked how collaborating with both programs helped BlocPower's business, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, the general manager, Keith Kinch, indicated the firm was able to add several key employees to the team, who made invaluable contributions for completing clean energy projects across the State. He stated that NYSERDA programs are amazing and hopes to continue to expand as New York reopens and work increases.

## **Learn more about clean energy workforce development opportunities with NYSERDA**

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