

Green job opportunities emerge in Brooklyn

Case Study

Company Name:
Willdan

Training Category:
Energy Audits

Location:
Brooklyn, New York

Overview

With funding from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), energy services consulting firm Willdan developed the Willdan Clean Energy Academy, a training program creating a new wave of qualified energy auditors practicing in the State. Working closely with Con Edison, Willdan is empowering these trainees to learn the skills necessary to uncover energy saving opportunities for customers participating in utility programs, in particular customers in the small commercial market segment.

Focusing on Priority Populations

The Clean Energy Academy provides a pathway for priority populations to step into clean energy job opportunities with nationally recognized certifications. For this effort, Willdan sought to recruit trainees from populations that include but aren't limited to veterans, 18- to 24-year-olds, previously incarcerated individuals, and individuals residing in Environmental Justice zones.

A Holistic and Robust Training Approach

The Small Commercial Energy Efficiency Analyst training developed by Willdan included 60-hours of classroom instruction and in-the-field, hands-on experiential learning over the course of two weeks. The relaxed classroom environment, efforts made by instructors to relate to the trainees, and group learning approaches helped foster deeper engagement with the curriculum. Following the classroom training, participants performed Level 1 audits in small commercial settings, which included churches and office buildings.



“Students mentioned how the skill sets they acquired were practical and easy to apply in real world settings... enabling them to excel with confidence in a new field.”

— Antuan Cannon,
Project Manager

A Bright Future for Training Program Graduates

As a result of Willdan’s training program, participants:

- Completed a curriculum spanning the green economy, lighting systems, HVAC systems, and OSHA safety standards
- Learned auditing skills and best practices such as measurement and benchmarking
- Earned nationally recognized certifications and are eligible for continuing education credits
- Prepared themselves for occupations such as Energy Auditor, Energy Analyst, Project Coordinator, Project Manager, Business Development Specialist, and Inspector
- Get hired – roughly 90% of students who have graduated have been placed into part-time or full-time opportunities

Learn more about clean energy workforce development opportunities with NYSERDA

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