

Appendix 2. Ohio's Effort to Align Economic and Workforce Development Goals

Ohio Skills Bank. The Ohio Skills Bank is a partnership—among the Board of Regents, the Ohio Department of Development, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Workforce Investment Boards, and career one-stop partners— with the goal of ensuring Ohio's workforce meets the need of important industries of the 21st century economy and becomes a critical asset to employers and economic development. To do so, the Skills Bank aligns curriculum and training with skill demand via collaboration, data analysis, and communication between training institutions, economic development experts, and employers. The Skills Bank continues to undertake the difficult task of identifying clean energy sector jobs and the skills needed to do that work.

Green Pathways Advisory Council: *Connecting the Dots between Economic and Workforce Development.* The Ohio Board of Regents assembled a Green Pathways Advisory Panel that consists of leaders from business, labor, economic and workforce development agencies, utility companies, education and training, environmental and anti-poverty groups to encourage cross-agency and multi-stakeholder communication.²⁴ By coordinating Ohio's energy strategy, we can help ensure efficient allocation of training resources. We can also position Ohio to secure additional training funds from the U.S. Department of Labor, which strongly encourages the use of green project funds to create on-the-job training opportunities, and to direct training efforts through a comprehensive strategy that promotes green career pathways out of poverty.

The Ohio Green Pathways Advisory Panel is charged with the following goals²⁵:

1. Develop a comprehensive understanding of green workforce demand
2. Build and expand relationships with green industry leaders
3. Identify strategies to create and expand new green opportunities in Ohio
4. Improve communications and dissemination of information about green jobs.

By encouraging communication among these diverse stakeholders, the panel will help ensure that we are building a green training pipeline of workers, leveraging our resources effectively and meeting the needs of our emerging green businesses. Separate efforts and different expertise to increase efficiency exist at the Ohio Department of Development and the Ohio Department of Transportation; in utilities, businesses and unions; and among community, workforce development and education leaders. The Green Pathways Advisory Panel brings these diverse groups together.

²⁴ See <http://www.uso.edu/opportunities/sustainability/green-pathways/advisory-panel.php>

²⁵ Ohio Green Pathways Advisory Panel Strategic Plan.