

# The Times

## Center offers solar job training

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**STAFF WRITER**

TRENTON -- An employment education program at the city's Center for Energy and Environmental Training (CEET) is preparing area workers for the jobs of tomorrow in the green energy economy with hands-on classes on solar panel installation.

Operated by Isles Inc., a 28-year-old community development and environmental organization, CEET is hoping to give unemployed and underemployed New Jersey residents a leg-up on the rapidly evolving landscape of alternative energy.

And, appropriately enough, CEET kicked off its inaugural class this week with the installation of working solar panels on the roof of its newly renovated training facility on Tucker Street.

"Participants in this first solar course have the benefit of observing the actual installation of a photovoltaic solar panel array on the roof of our building," Jeanne Oswald, the vice president of Isles, said.

Seven participants from around the region are taking part in the two-week program. Funded in part by a star-up grant from the state Department of Labor, CEET is also offering classes to students in Camden, Newark and New Brunswick.

According to Marty Johnson, president and founder of Isles, the panels will be able to provide up to 25 percent of the building's energy needs.

And as the need for alternative energy grows in New Jersey -- and around the world -- Johnson hopes the men and women who come out of the program will be the ones answering the call. "We're creating a career path for people here," Johnson said.

The program's participants also see the enormous potential of the training.

"This is the new thing, basically," John Flemming, 20, of West Trenton, said. "When the jobs start to come around, I want to make sure I get the first grab at it."

Derrick Wiggins, 46, of Trenton agreed. "With the way our natural resources are going, this is the wave of the future," he said. "This is the way to go."

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