



Building Career Awareness to Support the Green Economy

Session Organizer: Bart Merrick, NOAA

1:50 pm - 2:40 pm

Padlet Session Link: <https://ncboestc.padlet.org/estcworkshops2/n2witfajji5zdnim>

Today's middle and high school students will be instrumental in identifying opportunities to solve problems and address the challenges of a changing climate. These new and emerging career paths will exist in a wide range of disciplines and draw on a broad range of educational backgrounds that ensure students with diverse interests can be part of the climate solution. Harnessing the interests and abilities of today's students towards future careers and life opportunities is an exciting part of being an educator, but we know inequities exist in this system that can and are being addressed through programming that supports career awareness amongst elementary, middle and high school students.

Discussion Questions

- What can we do to build career awareness and better connect students with the diversity of jobs and careers that support the emerging green economy for both career and college tracked students?
- How do we ensure that this is done equitably both within districts and across the state and what accountability structures are in place or could be put into place?
- How can we meaningfully advance this work using existing Perkins and COVID-19 Economic Relief funding, and the potential for additional funding for pandemic recovery, infrastructure, and/or climate change efforts?

Three Things You Must Know:

- Important for students to be able to see themselves in "green" careers. Career awareness programming is stronger when program partners/speakers/case studies are representative of the audience for the career awareness programming.
- Career opportunities exist, ones that are emerging and Jobs called for in [President Biden's American Jobs Plan](#) will need to address the challenges presented by a changing climate. Framing career opportunities across the job spectrum (technical positions - PhDs) as both good jobs and jobs that can help us address challenges can elevate the "status" or a variety of career opportunities
- Equity of opportunity to build awareness and explore careers (compensation for career exploration internships)

Background & Key Resources

- State Career Standards and Guidance ([PA Career Ready Skills](#), [VA's Workplace Readiness Skills; Framework for the Future](#), [NY Career Stds](#), [MD Career Development Framework](#), [DE Career and Technical Education Program](#), [WV Career and Technical Education](#))
- [Career 1 Stop](#):
- It is critical for stakeholders to have a [common language around green careers](#), view the [Bureau of Labor Statistics Green Jobs definition](#)

Session Speakers

- Brittany Jayroe, Program Director, [EcoRise](#)
- Laura Fridirici, Career Readiness Advisor and Special Consultant to the Secretary for Career Readiness, [Pennsylvania Department of Education](#)
- Tammy Diedrich, Manager of Internship and Business Programs, [Anne Arundel County Public Schools](#)