

from the desk of E. Roy Budd



Dear Friends:

Welcome to this edition of the regional WorkOne Career Connect Magazine. By reading this magazine, you will find a gateway to a career in the alternative energy field.

The 21st century has been called the “century of the environment”. Businesses, communities and individuals can no longer assume that economic challenges such as pollution, dwindling natural resources and climate change can be set aside for future generations.

East Central Indiana (ECI) is a region whose past has caught up with it. Steel, paper, auto, and other manufacturing plants that once fueled our economy have closed up, leaving a brown landscape and a struggling workforce. ECI is poised to become a ‘phoenix region’ – a region rising up from the ashes of blight and restoring its landscape, economy and energy.

If we as a region focus on a mission of strengthening our global competitiveness within, for example, green manufacturing, we can demonstrate a transformation of East Central Indiana that restores our local economies and captures a segment of the emergent alternative energy sector.

We have already started this transformation by spreading the seeds of alternative energy. The region is leading the way for the State of Indiana in ethanol and biomass production, wind energy technology with companies like Brevini and Photovoltaic technology companies like Solartech in Portland, Indiana.

A goal of this transformational mission should be to provide information, strategic support and implementation of innovative technologies for both the workforce and end users in the target market area. Integrating education, workforce training and economic development into this process will allow us to utilize existing Brownfields and resources as well as promote green building practices in the region. Developing a “green economy” is an ideal niche for the region.

“Sustainability” has become a term meaning profit! It has become a term used to save businesses, schools and other organizations money by enhancing efficiencies. Today’s business customers expect green. So let’s develop a workforce for Indiana that understands and employs alternative energy and advanced manufacturing.

Smart, targeted workforce development that allows Hoosiers to work in East Central Indiana in alternative energy and advanced manufacturing jobs will promote wealth generation by creating “good paying” jobs. These types of jobs within the alternative energy field will transform our region.

Energize-ECI, along with its partners, are working every day to create the best possible environment for job creation and business growth in East Central Indiana. We are taking actions to ensure the regional assets are in place to transform alternative energy and advanced manufacturing as the dominant economic and job base for the ECI region.

We hope that you, as part of the regional workforce, will join us in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

E. Roy Budd
Executive Director
Energize-ECI (a 10-county regional economic development organization for East Central Indiana)



An initiative of the Eastern Indiana Regional Workforce Board. Funding for this project has been provided by Indiana Department of Workforce Development. The WorkOne System is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate in the programs and services offered. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Call (800) 743-3333 for TDD/TTY relay service.