



JOB CORPS'

R&R Field Report

Aiding in America's Recovery and Reinvesting in Our Future



ARRA E-newsletter Volume 10

From the National Office of Job Corps

Dear Job Corps Staff,

The arrival of spring and warmer weather is good news for centers that have had ARRA projects waiting for the end of winter. The National Office is continuing to work as quickly as possible to distribute the appropriate ARRA funds to each Region so that all approved projects can continue moving ahead. I know all of you are mindful that federal regulations require **100 percent of ARRA funds be committed by June 30, and a large portion of the work completed by September 30, 2010.** I can't stress enough how important it is that everyone continue to allocate their ARRA funds in a timely manner. I know this is a busy time of year, but ARRA projects and initiatives must remain a top priority. We have a responsibility to the program and to the Administration to use these funds appropriately and on time.

One of Job Corps' larger ARRA initiatives, *Earth Day Every Day (EDED)*, and its highly anticipated schedule of events, is now only a few days away. I also want to remind center staff that the *EDED* news release and media advisory templates can be found on the ARRA documents page of the Job Corps community Web site. These templates are easy to use and can help your center obtain local media coverage regarding your different *EDED* activities.

ARRA is about much more than construction projects and environmental programs. As you know, a significant portion of the funding was directed to expanding skill sets in Construction, Advanced Manufacturing, and Automotive career areas to better prepare our students for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

The next three editions of the Job Corps R&R Field Report will highlight all three of the program's green career pathways and the excellent hands-on training opportunities offered to our students in each career area. The first industry, Construction, is profiled below and includes videos of our Job Corps students in action.

Thanks again for everyone's hard work. As projects progress on your centers, please remember to keep sending in photos and information to ojc.arra@dol.gov.

Sincerely,

Edna Primrose
National Director

Center Spotlight: Exeter Job Corps Center



Exeter construction students survey the specialty sod they recently planted to help conserve natural resources on center.

Going green at Job Corps centers is taking on many forms, from large-scale projects such as installing wind turbines and solar panels, to smaller initiatives like the specialty sod that students at the Exeter Job Corps Center helped plant. It's a change that will make the center more environmentally friendly.

The new grass, a Turf Tall Fescue with a Blue Grass blend, will not only enhance the center's appearance, but will also lessen the impact that the center has on the environment. The new grass needs to be watered and mowed less often than typical grass, limiting the use of fossil fuels and pollution from lawn mowers and decreasing the impact on Rhode Island's natural resources.

This type of grass is available only at a select number of places in New England, and the center worked with Sodco, a local supplier near the town of Exeter. By doing business with Sodco, the center is reinvesting ARRA funds directly into the local economy and helping to create and preserve jobs.



Earth Day Every Day – it's almost here!

In addition to the National Director's reminders above, please also keep in mind that Global Days of Service is coming up on April 17-18. This is a great opportunity for Job Corps students to work on projects that create solutions to help the environment. For specific ideas about how your center can get involved, please refer to Page 5 of the *Earth Day Every Day* Programming Booklet, which can be found on the JC ARRA page of the Job Corps Community Web site. If a center does choose to participate in Global Days of Service, it will count toward the participation recommended for Global Youth Services Day. Please see Information Notice 09-78 for more details.

Please also remember to take pictures of each *EDED*-related activity and share your stories by submitting information and photographs to ojc.arra@dol.gov and www.greensnap.org. The centers that submit the best photos and descriptions of each activity will be featured in a special *Earth Day Every Day* edition of the Job Corps R&R Field Report.

The Little Rock Job Corps Center is one of many centers getting ready for a successful *Earth Day Every Day* Week. To hear about their plans for an *EDED* center mascot, [click here](#).



Building a Green Future

Manufacturers of consumer products are listening to the national dialogue on energy independence, sustainability, and efficiency. You can see it in virtually every step of the process. Hybrid vehicles travel our roads; wind turbines and solar panels help generate our energy; and homes, offices, warehouses, and dormitories are built with the latest environmentally sensitive products and techniques.

To prepare students for success in careers like Automotive, Advanced Manufacturing, and Construction, Job Corps has added green skills to its industry-certified training. TARs have been expanded to reflect new industry demands for greater environmental sensitivity. Whether working in Bricklaying; Carpentry; Cement Masonry; Electrical; Facilities Maintenance; Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC); Painting; or Plumbing, Job Corps students are developing an awareness of the environment that will allow them to enter the workforce with skills that are relevant in today's job market.



A San Diego Electrical training student installs energy-efficient lightbulbs on campus.

To graduate from those programs, students must display competency in industry-specific green skills. The programs begin with the basics of "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" and then advance to the fundamentals of green building rating systems, such as the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and the National Home Builders Model Green Home Building Guidelines.

To install the new grass, students in the construction and landscaping career technical training areas removed the current landscaping. Students then prepared the area for the new sod with a nutrient-enriched, screened soil and laid the new sod over the prepared soil. Eventually, the new sod will overtake the remaining grass on center, increasing its environmental benefits.

To see a video of the Center Director talking about the new sod project, [click here](#).

To see photographs of students installing the new sod, please [click here](#).

If you have news to share about your center and want to be featured in a center spotlight, please e-mail ojc.arra@dol.gov.

Students learn that for a building to achieve LEED-certified status many of the products used during construction must be “salvageable” and given a second life. The building must also have a percentage of recycled content, have eliminated or significantly reduced toxins, and be deemed renewable over a short period of time.

All construction career areas play an important role in contributing to the overall green status of a building. This is defined both in the short term by how well the project protects the environment on the job site and in the long term by determining whether or not the building provides a healthy and efficient environment for its occupants.

Job Corps is proud to incorporate these principles and practices in our training, and we strive to ensure that our students are prepared for work on any type of construction site. Because of this commitment, we are able to offer employers a group of highly employable young people who are at the forefront of green building industry practices.



A Little Rock Plumbing student helps install a low-flow toilet to conserve water on center.

[A Homestead Job Corps student talks about his hands-on green skills training »](#)

[A Clearfield Job Corps instructor talks about green skills training »](#)

To see more photos for **Building A Green Future**, [please click here.](#)

Please send photos of students using the new computers to ojc.arra@dol.gov, or if you're an ARRA Regional monitor, upload them to GreenSnap at www.greensnap.org. These photos may be featured in an upcoming e-newsletter.