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Governor Doyle Announces \$270,000 in Clean Energy Training Grants for Electrical Workers

Part of \$2.63 Million State Investment to Prepare Workers for Future Jobs

CUSTER – Governor Jim Doyle today presented the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) with a \$270,000 grant to train its members on advanced photovoltaic technologies. The funds are part of \$2,630,000 in state grants from the Department of Commerce for use by specific organizations in the building trades to provide job training and retraining programs, including training in green building and the installation of alternative energy systems.

“Through my bold agenda to become a clean energy leader and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Wisconsin has a tremendous opportunity to invest in our clean energy workforce,” Governor Doyle said. “I am pleased we are partnering with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the Midwest Renewable Energy Association to invest in workers that will lead our state in the installation of clean energy technologies that keep energy dollars in our communities, create jobs and clean our air and water.”

The state’s workforce investment also prepares Wisconsin to work on major clean energy projects in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Governor Doyle thanked the Obama Administration for its leadership in renewable energy and the creation of clean energy jobs.

The \$270,000 grant will be used to contract with its National Apprenticeship and Training Committee to provide a photovoltaic systems train-the-trainer course. The 24 trainers trained through the program will provide 458 hours of training to up to 180 students over three years.

Photovoltaic systems, roof packages, and other equipment will be installed at each site so the students can learn firsthand about these systems. The Custer site already has a photovoltaic system in place, and the project is estimated to cost \$273,690.

IBEW is a labor union representing nine locals in Wisconsin.