



HONORABLE MAYOR  
WILLIAM LANTIGUA

**The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will fund a green jobs training program  
for the Merrimack Valley**

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The Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board is pleased to announce a new cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to implement a \$300,000 Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training program. Entitled "Training for Sustainability," the program will provide job training for forty-five (45) unemployed and underemployed residents of Lawrence, Methuen and Haverhill over the next two years. Training will be in the areas of sustainable landscaping, deconstruction and recycling.

"This program will boost green-related economic development strategies throughout the Merrimack Valley. I'm happy to be working on this "Green and Growing" campaign, working with a great team", stated Mayor Lantigua. While the MVWIB will lead the program, non-profit organizations, municipal agencies, the faith-based community and local businesses contributed to program design and will be vital to its success. Key partners include Groundwork Lawrence as the lead trainer, Valleyworks Career Center and local employers such as Go Green and RM Technologies.

The MVWIB and Groundwork Lawrence will build on the strengths and lessons learned through their previous collaboration on the "Ambiente" environmental remediation training completed in 2006. Heather McMann, GWL Executive Director stated "Green jobs are an emerging employment sector, and this training will allow GWL and all our partners to prepare local residents for jobs of the future."

EPA is sponsoring a national movement to conserve natural resources and energy by managing materials more efficiently; trained workers are a crucial part of that effort. "These job training grants are not just helping to create good jobs, they're helping create good, green jobs that protect the health of local families and residents and prepare communities for continued economic growth" stated EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson in her announcement of \$6.2 million to 21 grant recipients nationally.