



## Introduction

We are pleased to share with you the first three chapters of the Emerging Industries Project: Sustainable Manufacturing, Construction & Demolition Waste Recycling, and Energy Efficiency and Building Retrofits. Each industry was selected based both on its potential to provide quality employment to people with barriers to employment and its potential for significant growth in our region.

Because these sectors are still relatively small, the Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia and Green Economy Task Force struggled to find research on the needs of these companies in terms of workforce, policy, and funding. Most studies to date had focused too broadly on all businesses within the clean energy economy and had not given people on the ground enough tangible, industry-specific evidence to either capitalize on opportunities or address remaining barriers to growth.

The Emerging Industries Project is our methodology for collecting data directly from local businesses, building productive relationships between job trainers and employers, and informing our collective work to grow the green economy. Like the Green Economy Task Force itself, the Emerging Industries Project is informed and driven by four essential elements of a robust and equitable green economy: Policy, Funding, Job Training, and Employer Commitment. The process for each chapter includes a public meeting or forum; targeted interviews; business/ employer roundtables; site visits; working groups; and a final policy paper or industry report. Each chapter aims to give Stakeholders of the Green Economy Task Force a foundation from which to develop industry-focused strategies for the road ahead.

Just as importantly as the process, this is a unique project in its deep commitment to the engagement of all players in Philadelphia's green economy. While businesses are our primary customer and the Sustainable Business Network the primary engine, the Emerging Industries Project is built on the foundation of hundreds of invested citizens and organizations. This foundation goes back well beyond the first meeting of the Green Economy Task Force in February 2008, but is held together today by the dedication and expertise of each individual Stakeholder and the agencies and missions they represent.

We would like to give a special thanks to the businesses who contributed their expertise to our work, to the talented Elliott Gold, author of the Sustainable Manufacturing and Construction & Demolition Waste Recycling papers, and to Elizabeth Guman and Ingrid Boucher of Strategy Arts who conducted the Energy Efficiency and Retrofits Employer Roundtables and dialogue with job trainers.

We hope the Emerging Industries Project will be an ongoing and valuable resource to you and a replicable methodology for our partners across the country.

Yours in Prosperity & Equality,

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