



Challenge support cycle 2020 – City of Pittsburgh, USA

## Seeking new employment models to foster the renewable energy transition

Released in 2019, the [Siemens City Performance Tool \(CyPT\) assessment for the city of Pittsburgh](#) identifies the potential to 1. reduce carbon emissions in the city administration by nearly 75 percent by 2030 while 2. generating 110,000 new full-time positions in the renewable energy sector. A key step to act on these findings will be the initiation of a new procurement platform for electricity procurement. This platform will enable Pittsburgh's buying cooperative, a group of 30 municipal agencies, to shift to renewable energy through power purchase contracts. These energy contracts will not only allow the municipality to substantially increase shares of renewable power, but also provide local workforce development benefits in the area of solar, wind and hydro energy.

A major aspect of this process will be building a workforce in the renewable energy sector as part of Pittsburgh's economic development strategy. The city is already cooperating with several local training agencies like the Pittsburgh Energy Innovation Center and exploring models ensure local talent is available to support Pittsburgh's climate targets. A sustainable workforce transition will require long-term visions of market developments, the consideration of employment conditions and career entry opportunities for existing and new residents. It will be essential to build strong partnerships across sectors to implement renewable energy projects while ensuring fair and just workforce outcomes.

### Urban Transitions Alliance

Through the Urban Transitions Alliance, Pittsburgh will be able to exchange across regions on training models that connect local workforce development programs with both labor and clean energy project developers. Specifically, cooperation with the Ruhr region in Germany and GZM Metropolis in Poland will provide policy insights from structural change programs and enable technical partnerships with energy providers, innovators and research institutions. Additional learnings will be drawn from green employment policies in Turku, E-Town and Cincinnati, where community colleges have been involved in regional job growth in the solar sector. Recommendations will build on previous Alliance work on opportunity programs including early career education initiatives and on-the-job training for long-term unemployed citizens.

### Key Questions

- How can the City of Pittsburgh connect local training and workforce development programs with both labor and clean energy project developers?
- What additional partnerships and cooperation models can be beneficial internationally to support a workforce transition that supports local emission reduction goals?
- How can the workforce transition be designed in a fair and just way, ensuring that quality jobs are created, also improving opportunities for those without employment?

### Expected Outcomes

- Collection of training models that connect workforce developers with implementation partners;
- Establishment of cross-regional partnerships with relevant stakeholders in Alliance cities;
- Recommendations for inclusive and equitable design of green workforce programs.