



Eastern-in-the-News



‘COMMUNITY WIND ENERGY JOBS MEETING’ JAN. 20 IN MOOREFIELD

Moorefield, WV – Jan. 6 - Along the wind-swept, mountain ridges of the Allegany Front, have you ever seen the towering turbines blossoming like gigantic trilliums, or enormous walking irises? Have you heard much about Wind Energy? Are you aware that the industry is taking root and growing swiftly in the Potomac Highlands and surrounding regions?

Like any blooming patch, those steel and fiberglass gardens need careful tending—and to qualify for those high-wage, trouble-shooting jobs, wind farm tenders need special technical skills.

At an open Community Wind Energy Jobs Meeting, set for Wednesday, January 20, representatives from Eastern WV Community and Technical College will talk about those special skills, and explain how local residents can acquire them in a new training program close to home.

“Some of those jobs are already here, and we know that many more are coming to our area,” said Ward Malcolm, Developer and Lead Faculty of Eastern’s new Wind Energy Turbine Technology program. Malcolm will head up the informal meeting, scheduled at Moorefield’s South Branch Inn from 7:00 to 8:30 PM, and he emphasized that anyone with any interest in the field—man or woman—is welcome to attend to get information and ask questions.

\$17/Hour Plus Benefits

“With some 450 wind turbines currently producing energy or under construction in our four-state area, and another 502 turbines proposed or now involved in the permitting process,” he pointed out, “industry managers in this region foresee a

need for some 60 new turbine service technicians every year.”

Entry-level wind turbine service technicians start at around \$17 per hour with comprehensive benefits included, according to wind energy experts and published help-wanted ads.

“We’ll talk about the kinds of work experience or previous learning folks should have for this training,” Malcolm said, “and for those who don’t already have it, how we can help them get it.”

The college will provide free snacks and beverages at the meeting.

“We’ll also offer a one-week introduction workshop to wind turbine technology that will give folks a chance to understand how a wind farm operates and how a turbine works, and to learn on-the-job OSHA safety principles and explore tower-climbing techniques,” he noted.

Bird’s-Eye View

“So anyone at all interested will get a real bird’s-eye view of the working conditions, the skills required and the start-from-scratch training program now available right here at their own community college,” Malcolm said.

If heavy weather forces cancellation of the informational meeting on January 20, Eastern has set January 28 as the “rain-out” date.

For more information about Eastern’s Wind Energy Jobs Meeting, its wind energy turbine technology training program, or financial aid opportunities, call 304-434-8000, or toll-free: 877-982-2322.

Serving the residents of Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral, Pendleton and Tucker counties, Eastern West Virginia

Community and Technical College, fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, is a comprehensive and equal opportunity

community and technical college bringing the resources and assets of Education That Works to the families, communities and employers of the Potomac Highlands.