

# Women Working in Environmental Protection

September 29, 2010

Prepared for the  
U.S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau  
by Public Policy Associates, Incorporated  
and Wider Opportunities for Women

# Opening Remarks

**Sara Manzano-Díaz**

Director, Women's Bureau  
U.S. Department of Labor

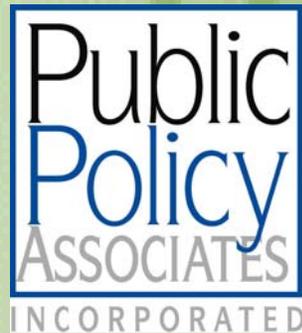


# Setting the Stage

**Colleen E. Graber**

Project Manager

Public Policy Associates, Incorporated



# Worker Environmental Health and the Transition to the “New Economy”

**Anhthu Hoang**

General Counsel and

Director of Environmental Health

WEACT for Environmental Justice



## About WEACTION

- Founded and Incorporated in 1988
- Works to inform, educate, train and mobilize the predominately African-American and Latino residents of Northern Manhattan on environmental issues that impact their quality of life



# My Career in Environmental Justice

## • Education

- University of Washington, Ph.D. in ecology and evolutionary biology
- University of California, J.D.

## • Experience

- General Counsel and Director of Environmental Health at WEACTION for 5 years
- Communities for a Better Environment
- Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment
- University of California Berkeley Post Doctoral Fellow



Do you know “green” when you see it?



# Environmental Justice in the Green Economy

- Green economy considerations should be broad
  - Working things colored green - Landscapers, parks maintenance, agriculture (most recently within urban agriculture context)
  - Reusing - recycling, materials development
  - Reducing carbon emissions - transit/transportation and energy efficiency
- “Greening” all jobs, including old industries, can ensure the health and safety of workers



# Opportunities for Synergy Between Environmental Justice and Labor

- Environmental justice communities want to engage
  - High unemployment
  - Need services and modernization
- Our goals intersect
- Together we are stronger
  - WE ACT's partnerships: TWU & carpenter's union



## Training for Jobs

- Design government incentives and policies
- Partner with private sector
- Ensure considerations of health and safety
- Ensure continued advancement and education
  - Beyond the entry-level



# Just Transition and Pathways Out of Poverty

- Ensuring full participation of workers of color in economic opportunities
- Workplace protection for all workers
- Training and education for transition to management
- Assistance for entrepreneurs



# A Career in Environmental Remediation

**Dianne C. Martin**

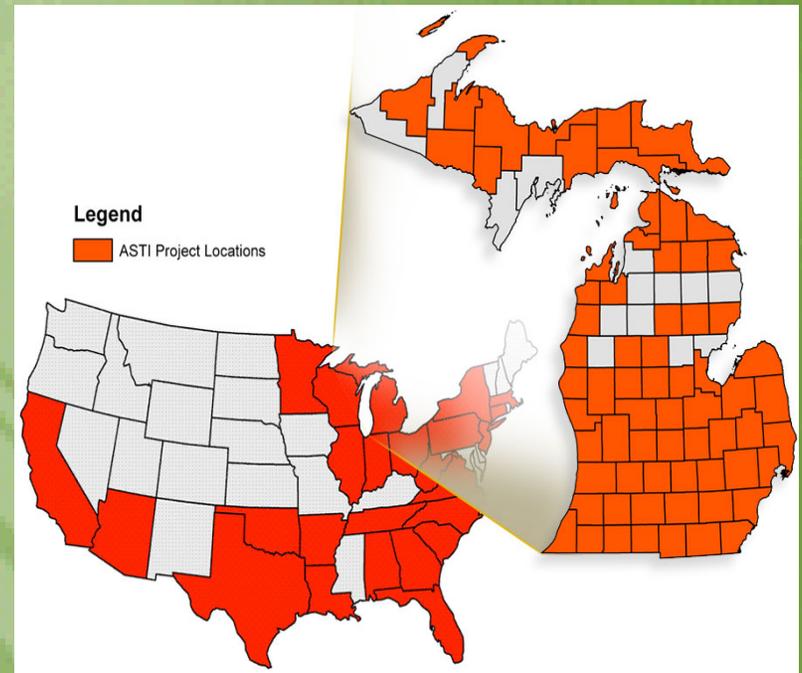
Director of Resource Assessment and  
Management

ASTI Environmental



# About ASTI Environmental

- Established in 1985
- Over 90 percent repeat/referral business
- Over 7,000 projects in the United States
- Projects in Canada, Mexico, and the Czech Republic



# ASTI Environmental: Services

## *Investigation*



## *Restoration*



## *Remediation*



## *Compliance*



# ASTI Environmental: Markets Served

Market Segment	Average
Architects	3%
Asphalt	2%
Attorney	2%
Commercial	1%
Developer/Realtor/Broker	32%
Financial Institution	3%
Individual	6%
Manufacturer	14%
Mining	3%
Municipality	15%
Construction	1%
Retail	1%
School/Education	1%
Utilities	2%
Waste Industries	3%
Other	11%
Engineer	1%
Transportation	2%



# ASTI Environmental: *Client Base*

## Municipalities: 15%

- Administer Environmental Ordinances
- Remediation
- Ecological Restoration
- Redevelopment

## Manufacturing: 14%

- Treatment Wetlands
- Contamination Remediation
- Industrial Compliance
- Innovative Stormwater Management



## Developers: 32%

- Wetland Delineation/ Permitting/Mitigation
- Phase I Environmental Site Assessments
- Brownfield Redevelopment
- Lead and Asbestos Surveys

## Transportation

- Wetland Services
- Environmental Assessments/EIS
- Endangered Species Surveys

# My Career in Environmental Protection

- Education

- Eastern Michigan University, M.S., 1996, Aquatic Ecosystem Biology
- Western Michigan University, B.S., 1993, Biology and Environmental Studies

- Certifications

- Professional Wetland Scientist #1313, Society of Wetland Scientists
- Michigan DEQ Wastewater Treatment Operator for Constructed Wetlands
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources Endangered Species
- HAZWOPER Certification and 8 Hour Refresher



# My Career in Environmental Protection

*(continued)*

- Experience

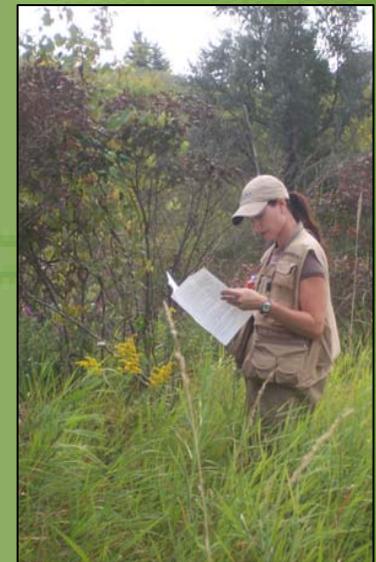
- Director, ASTI Environmental: *8 years*
- Ecologist, ASTI Environmental: *5 years*
- Field Supervisor, Missouri Department of Conservation: *1 year*
- Teaching Assistant, Eastern Michigan University: *2 years while in graduate school*



# The Future of Green Jobs:

## *A Consulting Perspective*

- Grant funding for ecological restoration
- Renewable energy
- Green buildings
- Innovative stormwater treatment
- Brownfield redevelopment (site assessment and remediation)



# Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants Program

**Joseph Bruss**

Environmental Justice and Training Coordinator  
Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization,  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



and

**Connie Ashbrook**

Executive Director  
Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc.



**Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc.**

## Brownfields Job Training Program History

- To date, EPA's Brownfields Job Training Program has funded 169 programs, totaling over \$35 million
- As of April 2010, more than 5,800 participants have completed training and more than 3,800 have obtained employment in the environmental field
  - 🌱 Average hourly wage: \$14.65





## The Milwaukee Community Service Corps Job Training Class

## Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants Program

- Through collaboration by EPA offices, created new Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants Program
  - Allows applicants to also deliver hazardous and solid waste training, in addition to brownfields training
  - Encourages training in innovative technologies and other employer needs
  - Retains focus on local community job opportunities



## Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants Program *(continued)*

- For FY 2011, total funding estimated to be \$4 million. Anticipating awarding 13 cooperative agreements with maximum values of \$300,000 each for two years.
  - For more information, see:
    - [www.epa.gov/oswer](http://www.epa.gov/oswer), “Grants and Funding” (available in early October)
    - [http://www.clu-in.org/conf/tio/bfjt2011\\_090210/prez/Draft-FY11-JT-Powerpoint-CLU-IN-presentation-9-2pdf.pdf](http://www.clu-in.org/conf/tio/bfjt2011_090210/prez/Draft-FY11-JT-Powerpoint-CLU-IN-presentation-9-2pdf.pdf)



## Examples of Environmental Jobs

- Environmental Technician
- Recycling Center Operator
- Emergency Response Technician
- Health & Safety Technician/Trainer
- Sampling/Calibration/Analysis Technician
- Underground Storage Tank Removal Specialist



# About Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc.

- Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc. is a nonprofit dedicated to promoting the success of women in the trades through education, leadership, and mentorship.
- Created in 1989 to help women and minorities be successful in the construction, mechanical, and utility trades, with specialties in environmental remediation.



# Pathways Program:

## *Training Approach*

- 7 weeks, 3 days/week pre-apprenticeship training
- Free to participants
- Female instructors from industry also are role models
- 1:5 instructor-to-student ratio means lots of individual attention
- Weekly evaluation/feedback on student performance to industry standards
- Nonprofit job sites mean students give back to community



# Pathways Program: *Components*

- 40-hour HAZWOPER and 8-hour Green Building module added to Pathways Program, thanks to EPA
- Once weekly field trips to construction sites to build familiarity with industry conditions and practices
- Hands-on day practice



## After-Class Supports

- Funding for tools, boots, and childcare
- Networking for mentoring, job leads, and social support: class leaders, social hour, Facebook, volunteering, and policy advocacy
- Re-employment assistance



# Question and Answer Period





## U.S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau

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