December 2011

- Unemployed get trained in business of energy efficiency
- PG&E's energy sector workforce strategy to launch early 2012
- New report shows employers investing in a skilled workforce enjoy real and lasting returns
- PG&E's Pacific Energy Center celebrates 20 years of energy-efficiency building design

Wishing you safe holidays and a Happy New Year!
The PG&E PowerPathway Team

Learn more about PG&E PowerPathway, a White House recognized best practice model for workforce development.

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**Unemployed Get Trained in Business of Energy Efficiency**

Ramsin Yaldaei had been working for a year in sales at a high-tech communications company in the Silicon Valley when he got laid off in 2009.

Since then, like a lot of Americans, he has been doing all he can to find work. But earlier this year he received an email about a community college course that may be his ticket to a brighter future.

Two nights a week for the past three months, Yaldaei and 28 others—nearly all of them out of work—took part in a pilot course on techniques to help businesses become more energy efficient. PG&E's energy sales and service team helped develop the curriculum for the PG&E PowerPathway Energy Efficiency Business Development course at Workforce Institute, a division of the San Jose/Evergreen Community College District. The course is another way PG&E's PowerPathway is building California's capacity to produce the skilled workers needed by PG&E and the energy industry.

"I see this course as teaching us how to be able to walk in the door and show businesses some kind of savings," Yaldaei said. "But not only can you save money but you can be green and it will

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**Employers Investing in a Skilled Workforce Enjoy Real and Lasting Returns**

As business leaders and politicians alike lament the skills gap that has slowed America's economic recovery, employers who embrace training for their current workers are finding promising results and an impressive return on their investment.

That is the main conclusion of a new report by Corporate Voices for Working Families, a nonprofit business membership organization in Washington D.C., which documents the findings in *Why Companies Invest in Grow Your Own Talent Development Models*.

Through case studies and concrete metrics, the report details how PG&E's PowerPathway, along with CVS/Caremark and Johns Hopkins Hospital, invest in education, training, and the basic workforce readiness of their employees, with a particular focus on the needs of entry-level and lower-skilled associates.

**Pacific Energy Center Celebrates 20 Years of Energy-Efficient Building Design**

Several years ago, Bay Area mechanical engineer Clark Bisel was working with a client to
Energy Sector Workforce Strategy

PG&E PowerPathway is engaging its key partners and others in industry, education, labor and government in an energy sector workforce development initiative focused on achieving California's energy efficiency goals.

The initiative, known as the Energy Sector Strategy, would align education and training pathways throughout PG&E's service area with market opportunities and industry requirements for a workforce that would improve efficiency in commercial, industrial and agricultural buildings.

A February 2012 launch is planned. Learn more

They visited PG&E's Pacific Energy Center in downtown San Francisco to view a scale model of the building, about the size of a dollhouse. The model was placed on the heliodon, a tool that simulates direct sunlight and shadows. This simulation helps designers and engineers make building decisions, including the type of glass used in windows, overhangs, awnings and other shadings to maximize energy efficiency and comfort.

"They found it invaluable because a lot of people don't understand the impact of light until they can see it," Bisel said.

The purpose of the Pacific Energy Center, which celebrated its 20th anniversary this month, is to help engineers, architects, developers and building operators design and maintain energy-efficient commercial buildings. Read more

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