

LEGISLATIVE CONCEPT

PREAMBLE: Given the multiple working groups considering higher education and workforce development, this proposal intends to complement those efforts and begin to institutionalize climate change mitigation goals within the design and construction community. This may be appropriate as an Executive Order.

Concept subject or title: Climate Responsible Workforce

Brief description of proposal:

Alignment of professional licensure requirements with statewide sustainability goals, primarily in the area of energy efficiency and climate change mitigation.

What does the proposal intend to do? What are the proposed actions, conditions, or criteria? (Bulleted list).

- Direct all State Agencies responsible for conferring or administering professional licenses within the building industry, including but not limited to Oregon Board of Architect Examiners, State of Oregon Construction Contractors Board, State of Oregon Building Codes Division, Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineers and Land Surveyors, State of Oregon Landscape Architect Board, State of Oregon Landscape Contractor's Board, and the Oregon State Board of Industry, to incorporate sustainability and climate change related topics into examination and continuing education requirements to obtain and maintain licensure.

What problem does concept this address?

Lack of qualified building industry professionals is hampering efforts to design, construct and maintain energy efficient buildings in Oregon. Current numbers of qualified professionals, technicians, and trades people can barely meet current market demands, let alone future market demands that will result with the passage of aggressive policy initiatives, funding mechanisms, or rising energy costs. Further, The Governor's Task Force on Economic Development identified energy efficiency as a growth industry, but current organizations in the industry such as McKinstry and PECEI complain of lack of qualified workers.

What elements of the current policy context are necessary to understand the concept?

The Governor's office is working with OUS on the following budget and program requests in 09 and recommended we bring any specific degree programs to this proposal rather than creating a new legislative concept. The following are currently included in OUS's request:

- The Engineering and Technology Industry Council (ETIC - <http://www.oregonetic.org/>) is asking for \$37.2 million to increase the number of engineering graduates and degrees to support Oregon's economy and top industries.
- PSU is asking for \$1 million to create a sustainability center focused on green building.
- Jim Sager, the Gov's Policy Advisor on Education is working with the Employment Dept and other state agencies on developing a workforce strategy focused on expanding skills around renewable energy, green building etc.
- A one day forum is being planned for the fall of 2008 for OUS and Board of Higher Education on the need for a "professional science masters degrees" that focuses on a cross disciplinary approach to engineering.

What happens if this concept isn't implemented?

The state's ability to become more energy efficient and economically competitive will be severely compromised. We are already seeing evidence of this in the building industry, companies are unable to find qualified new staff, developers are unable to find qualified consultants (qualified consultants are turning work away), and talented young professionals are going to schools outside of the State for sustainability-focused degree programs.

Would you characterize energy and GHG benefits of this proposal as a major, medium, or minor?

What data are needed to quantify these benefits?

Major energy and GHG benefits: The impacts could be calculated by looking at various implementation rates of energy efficiency in the state, understanding that higher rates could only be achieved with a skilled workforce developed through the efforts described above.

Who is affected by this proposal? Who will support it? Who's likely to oppose it?

State agencies would be affected. Not clear who supporters and opponents would be. Also, some industry associations may oppose new requirements for members.

Will there be a fiscal impact? Order of magnitude estimate?

Should be negligible fiscal impact.

What are the likely training and infrastructure needs?

Likely would be little training and infrastructure needs as all professionals are already able to find educational resources that would be in demand.