



Innovation and Commercialization
for a Regional Energy Workforce

Innovation and Commercialization for a Regional Energy Workforce (i-CREW)

July 31, 2020

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New Mexico State University

NM
STATE

I-CREW: Jobs, Innovation, Connectivity and Commercialization



i-CREW is a U.S. EDA-funded program focused on clean energy as an emerging economic opportunity to create and retain jobs, enhance commercialization and innovation, and foster regional connectivity.

Program Goals:

- Economic development, including rural, economically disadvantaged, and Native American communities
- Workforce development (education, job training and retraining)
- Clean energy entrepreneurship
- Clean energy business assistance
- Clean Energy Roadmap



Program Team



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College of Engineering



**North American
Intelligent Manufacturing
Initiative**



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**College of Agricultural, Consumer
and Environmental Sciences**
Indian Resources Development



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Workforce Development

Goal 1: Expand Workforce Development through NMSU and Community College Programs

- Academic classroom education and training
- Experiential, hands-on education and training (apprenticeships, internships, Co-Op, design projects)
- Short courses and workshops for existing workforce (e.g. clean energy codes and standards, integration of clean energy technologies)
- Measure the impact of associated green jobs



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Innovation and Commercialization

Goal 2: Accelerate Technology Innovation and Commercialization

- Create Sector-Based Entrepreneurship Training
 - Energy Sprint Business Accelerator
 - Entrepreneurial training statewide
 - Enterprise advisor and information network
- Advance emerging clean energy technologies for potential commercialization
- Tech-Match (e.g. match promising technologies with licensees)



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Outreach

Goal 2: Expand outreach to businesses and communities

- Technical services to businesses and communities (e.g. energy efficiency, clean energy integration)
- Outreach for integration of clean energy emerging technologies
 - Transportation (e.g. electric vehicles)
 - Housing
 - Grid modernization
- Collaborative partnerships
 - Government agencies Native American Communities
 - Non-government organizations
 - National Laboratories
 - Universities
 - Business and industry
 - Utilities and Rural-electric cooperatives





Statewide Clean Energy Road Map

Goal 3: Develop Statewide Clean Energy Road Map led by i-CREW partner, North American Intelligent Manufacturing Initiative (NAIMI)

- Regional and community working groups (e.g. statewide mission with localized relevance)
- Alignment with NM Energy Transition Act
- Adoption of clean energy technologies
- Engagement in clean energy workforce development
- Champion entrepreneurial clean energy start-ups and expansion of existing businesses



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Anticipated Impacts

- **Clean Energy Roadmap**
 - Statewide connectivity
 - Identification of sector needs and opportunities
 - Identification of barriers and challenges
- **Business Outreach**
 - Number of businesses assisted
 - Number of small businesses assisted
 - Geographic impact
- **Energy Sprint Business Accelerator**
 - Number of startup companies
 - Number of technologies licensed
 - Number of jobs created
- **Education**
 - Number of individuals trained
 - Number of workshops held
 - Number of new courses offered



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Program Sustainability

I-CREW builds on statewide efforts to advance a clean energy economy. Long-term sustainability of the program focus areas is anticipated given NM's commitment to clean energy and workforce development.

Specific areas of alignment for long-term sustainability include:

- University System Support: I-CREW contributes to NMSU's strategic goals and Community College workforce training role.
- Electric Utility Support: I-CREW is relevant for technology innovation, job creation, and workforce development important to utilities.
- Arrowhead Center: I-CREW is bolstered by Arrowhead's diverse range of public and private funders.
- State Agencies: Various programs and projects are dedicated to the benefits of clean energy and a diversified state economy.
- Formalize the NM Beneficial Electrification League to advance statewide clean energy economy.



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