



Workforce Development in New York City: The Key to Achieving Your Energy Goals

Opening Remarks



**Monique
Owens**

**REGIONAL DIRECTOR
U.S GREEN BUILDING
COUNCIL**

Session Description

Whether you're working toward LEED certification, carbon neutrality, or building performance standards, a trained workforce is essential to ensuring consistent, measurable results. Workforce development training equips professionals with the tools, certifications, and hands-on experience needed to implement high-performance energy solutions across buildings, communities, and infrastructure. In the face of national challenges, training offers a powerful avenue for individuals and small groups of colleagues to take meaningful, local action on climate change—empowering them to lead change from within their organizations and communities.

Join the U.S. Green Building Council, Urban Green Council, and other leading industry experts for a moderated panel that will explore how different workforce education programs enable energy professionals to take effective action towards large-scale climate goals. Hear from leading education providers, including CUNY Building Performance Lab, Urban Green Council, and Association for Energy Affordability, about their approaches to training for energy professionals and how they are helping to foster a culture of training to enable climate action and adaptation.

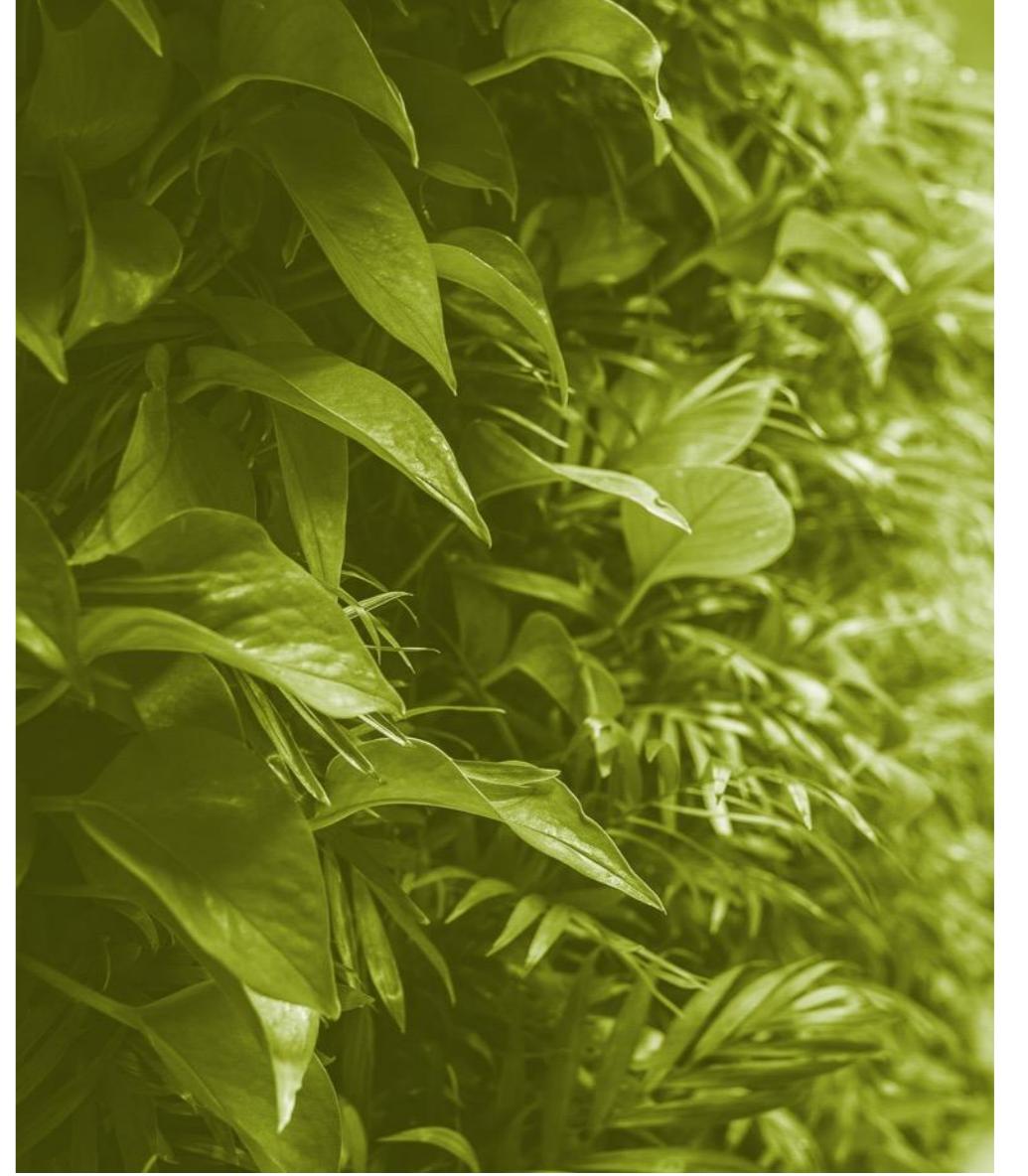
Learning Objectives

- Recognize the critical role of workforce development in advancing sustainable energy goals across the built environment.
- Explore effective training pathways and certifications that support high-performance building practices.
- Evaluate how a trained and adaptable workforce can enhance resilience in a changing policy and climate landscape.
- Apply workforce development strategies to drive innovation and long-term impact within their organizations or communities.

Course ID #: 0920032914

Green building for everyone within a generation.

The USGBC vision is for buildings and communities to regenerate and sustain the health and vitality of all life.





Wiseburn High School | Segundo, California, LEED Silver | Image credit: Ryan Gobuty, Gensler

Agenda

- **Opening Remarks**
- **Introductions**
- **Moderated Discussion**
- **Q/A**



Today's Speakers



Paul Reale

DIRECTOR OF
BUILDING
OPERATIONS
RESEARCH &
TRAINING,
CUNY BPL



**Ellen
Honigstock**

SENIOR DIRECTOR,
URBAN GREEN
COUNCIL



**Adam
Romano**

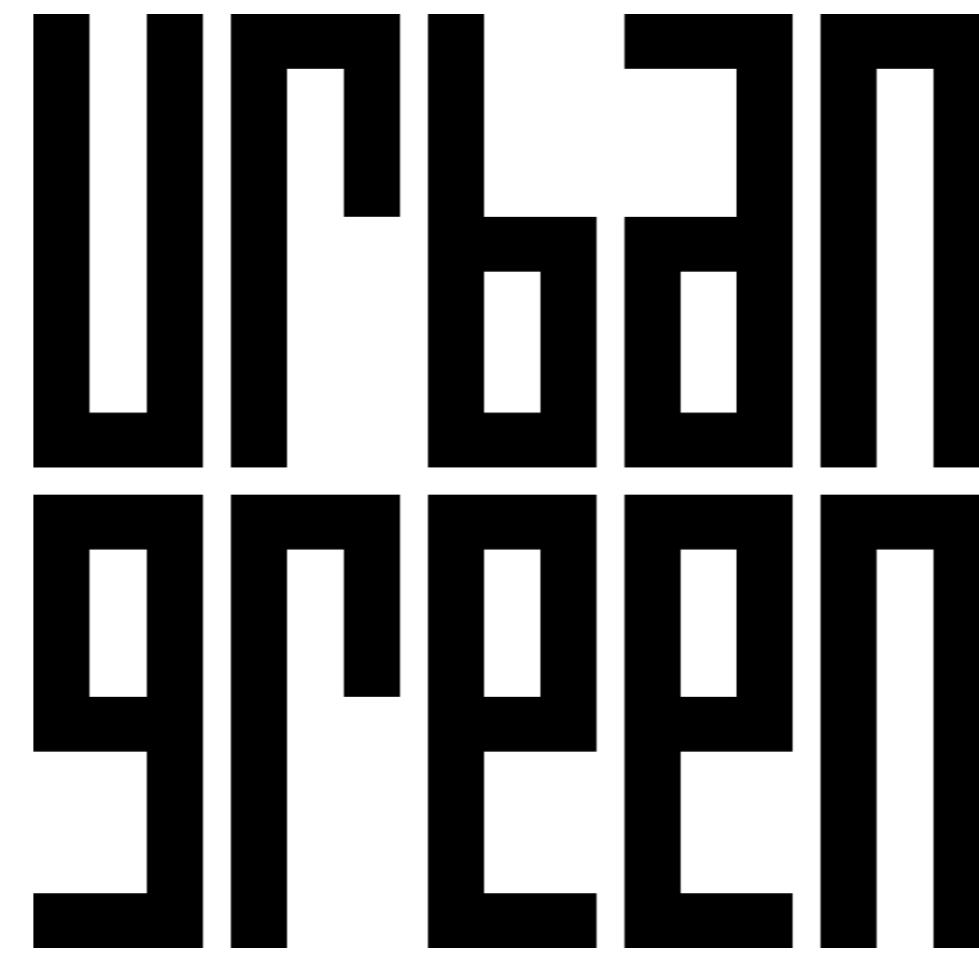
SENIOR DIRECTOR,
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT &
TRAINING
AEA

Moderator



Colleen Burns

**MANAGER, EDUCATION
URBAN GREEN COUNCIL**

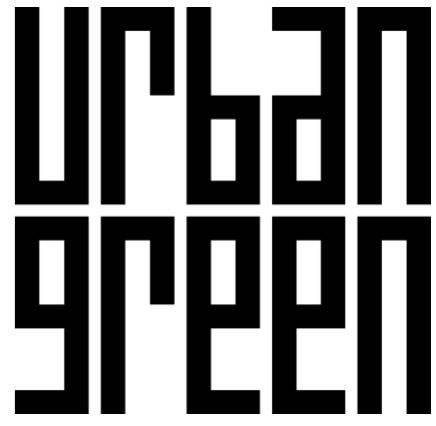


Ellen Honigstock

Senior Director, Education

Urban Green Council

Urban Green Council



Training for Incumbent Workers – Filling the Green Gap:

- GPRO
- Crushing the Code
- Match Made in HVAC - Choosing the Right Heat Pump for Your Building

Training for New Workers – Providing Access and Context:

- Getting Started with Green Building
- Fundamentals of Building Green

Ongoing Education for the Industry:

- Urban Green Education Portal
- Live events



BUILDING
performance
LAB

Paul Reale

Director of Building Operations Research and Training
CUNY Building Performance Lab

CUNY Building Performance Lab



Training for incumbent operators in commercial buildings / institutions:

- **BOC:** Building Operator Certification, foundational training, 64 hours
- **BuildingCoach:** Data-driven operational optimization, once every six weeks for a year
- **CampusCoach:** Add campus central plant analysis and finding to BuildingCoach
- **RTEM (coming soon):** Training for RTEM system users, 4 days spread over 4 weeks



CUNY Building Performance Lab



BUILDING
performance
LAB

And also...

- **BOT:** Building Operator Training, for multifamily building operators, 30 hours
- **Retrofit Now!:** Design approaches in service that align with LL97 context, 14 hours

Training for New Workers:

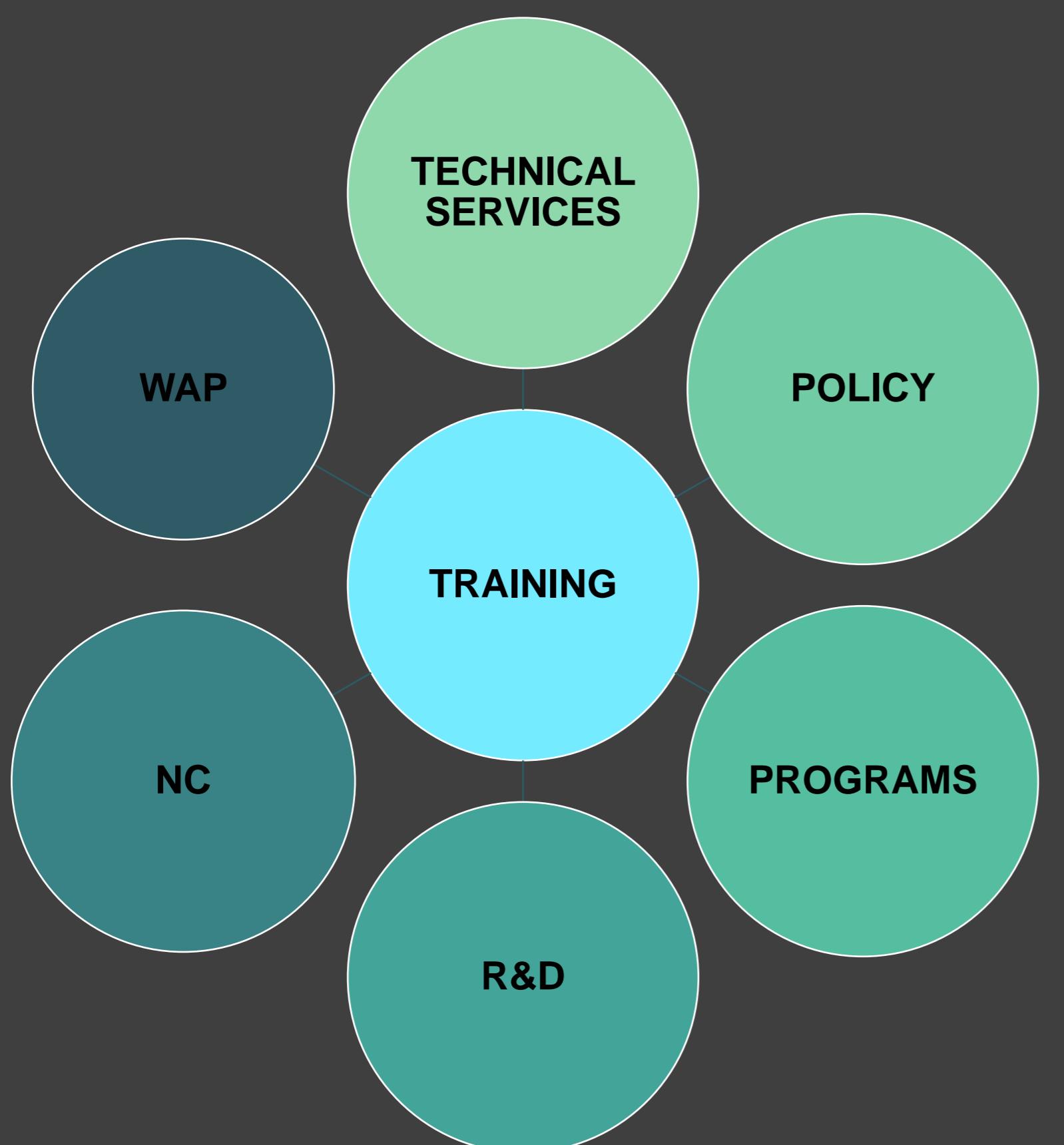
- **Energy and Carbon Management and Resilience:** Four classes, in partnership with colleges, semester-long
- **Internships!**





Adam Romano

Senior Director, Workforce Development and Training
Association for Energy Affordability, Inc.



Moderated Discussion



Questions?

Stay Connected



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Association for Energy Affordability
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CUNY Building Performance Lab
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Thank You.