

# Clean Energy Workforce Development

Building Operations & Maintenance – P-12 Schools



Maximize your building's performance with NYSERDA's **Building Operations & Maintenance Workforce Training Program**

**IDENTIFY**  
training needs

**PARTNER**  
with a training organization or develop your own training

**SUBMIT**  
an application

**\$11.5 MILLION**  
available

**Have a Question?**

Email the Workforce Development Team at [wfinfo@nyserdera.ny.gov](mailto:wfinfo@nyserdera.ny.gov)

or visit [nyserdera.ny.gov/BOM](https://nyserdera.ny.gov/BOM)

## Custom, hands-on, and funded training for your P-12 school facilities team

More than 17,000 K-12 school districts throughout the nation spend \$8 billion annually on energy—second only to teacher salaries. As much as 30% of a district's total energy is used inefficiently or unnecessarily.<sup>1</sup> As schools become more energy efficient and improve building management practices, they can expect other potential benefits beyond energy and cost savings, including improved indoor air quality (IAQ), increased student academic performance, teacher and staff retention, occupant comfort, and reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.<sup>2</sup>

Keeping up with all the requirements for new equipment, new staff, new training, and new best practices can seem overwhelming. However, NYSERDA's operations and maintenance (O&M) training initiatives, which are designed to support your transition to clean energy, can help.

**Every \$1 of preventive maintenance that is deferred will result in \$4 of expenditures to ultimately repair or replace those building systems.<sup>3</sup>**

### Pathways to Improvement

By participating in [NYSERDA's Building Operations and Maintenance program Training Program](#), your workforce will be properly trained in today's clean energy systems, which translates into cleaner, more efficient buildings. With proper workforce training, you can expect:

- Improved indoor air quality and reduced infection transfer rates
- Reduced energy/water use and related costs
- Increased occupant satisfaction
- Improved skilled employee retention due to promotion and career advancement opportunities
- Real-world educational opportunities for campus students
- Reduced equipment breakdowns and maintenance costs
- Increased engagement in risk management instead of crisis management

Just as importantly, upgrading your buildings and workforce will contribute to New York's ability to reach its ambitious goal of reducing economy-wide GHG emissions 40% by 2030, and no less than 85% by 2050 (when compared to 1990 levels<sup>4</sup>).

<sup>1</sup> K-12 Energy Efficiency Student Toolkit [energystar.gov/buildings/tools-and-resources/k\\_12\\_energy\\_efficiency\\_student\\_toolkit](https://energystar.gov/buildings/tools-and-resources/k_12_energy_efficiency_student_toolkit)

<sup>2</sup> Energy Savings Plus Health Guidance [epa.gov/iaq-schools](https://epa.gov/iaq-schools)

<sup>3</sup> Council of the Great City Schools, [cacs.org/cms/lib/DC00001581/Centricity/Domain/87/FacilitiesReport2014.pdf](https://cacs.org/cms/lib/DC00001581/Centricity/Domain/87/FacilitiesReport2014.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> New York Climate Act, [climate.ny.gov/Our-Climite-Act](https://climate.ny.gov/Our-Climite-Act)



**NYSERDA**

## Funds for Change

By applying to [Program Opportunity Notice \(PON\) 5357](#),<sup>4</sup> employers and building owners can receive funding for the development and implementation of building O&M training programs. Trainings can be equipment-based or process-based, and often include heating, cooling and ventilation system trainings that advance the skills of incumbent O&M workers. PON 5357 provides funding coverage for 70–90% of these types of project costs, which translates into low out-of-pocket expenditure.

Cost-shares offered through PON 5357 cover employees' wages while working on project tasks, while in classroom training, and while practicing on equipment in a learning lab set up for training. Training fees offset by a third party can also count toward cost-share. Have a look at the Project Spotlight below, which illustrate ways that PON 5357 is useful.

### 1. PROJECT SPOTLIGHT – NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL FACILITY ASSOCIATION AND THE NORTHWEST ENERGY EFFICIENCY COUNCIL

NYSERDA and the New York State School Facilities Association (NYSSFA) joined with the Northwest Energy Efficiency Council (NEEC) to create a sustainable Building Operator Certification program for public school facility and maintenance staff in the State.

The Building Operator Certification program includes several phases and it engage facilities staff on a broad range of topics, from HVAC systems and lighting to indoor air quality and energy management. Features of recent training events include:

- 75 staff members participating at three different sites in Liverpool, Albany, and Mamaroneck.
- 32 students participating in six half-day virtual training sessions.
- Course employee-trainers participating in a full-day of “train-the-trainers”.

NYSSFA surveyed training participants, and the consensus was the education provided was useful and will be applied back at their school districts to reduce costs and energy consumption.

#### Direct quotes from participants:

“The energy consumption was big. I have already contacted our energy supplier regarding an LED program.”

“I think the course has reinvigorated my personal quest to be the most energy efficient campus that we can be.”

“After this class, I now have the tools to open discussions with my superiors, on how we can make our facilities run more efficient and save money. Thank you for the experience and education.”

If your building portfolio has annual energy expenditures of \$1 million or more, now is the time to take advantage of resources offered through PON 5357 and invest in an innovative, forward-looking workforce development program.

If your district has lower energy expenditures, you can partner with other districts that have common training needs to reach the \$1M threshold.

## Ready to Get Started?

Visit [PON 5357](#) for more information.

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Become familiar with **additional NYSERDA programs** that support building performance and can help New York's organizations achieve significant benefits and savings!

#### Clean Green Schools ([PON 4924](#))

Questions: [P12Schools@nyserda.ny.gov](mailto:P12Schools@nyserda.ny.gov)

To learn more, visit: [nyserda.ny.gov/P-12-schools](https://nyserda.ny.gov/P-12-schools)

#### FlexTech Program ([PON 4192](#))

Questions: [FlexTech@nyserda.ny.gov](mailto:FlexTech@nyserda.ny.gov)

Schedule an energy check-up at: [nyserda.ny.gov/flextech](https://nyserda.ny.gov/flextech)

#### On-site Energy Manager Program ([PON 3701](#))

Questions: [OnsiteEnergyManager@nyserda.ny.gov](mailto:OnsiteEnergyManager@nyserda.ny.gov)

Hire a dedicated energy manager at: [nyserda.ny.gov/osem](https://nyserda.ny.gov/osem)

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<sup>4</sup> [nyserda.ny.gov/PON5357](https://nyserda.ny.gov/PON5357)

