



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MAYOR DELLUMS JOINS PARTNERS TO UNVEIL HISTORIC  
OAKLAND GREEN JOBS CORPS**

*Partnership Provides "Green-Collar" Skills and Jobs to Young Adults*

**Oakland** - The long-awaited Oakland Green Jobs Corps (OGJC) - the employment pipeline providing "green-collar" skills training and jobs to young adults with barriers to employment - will be publicly unveiled on October 20th, 2008 during a press conference at the Cypress Mandela Training Center. In attendance will be Mayor Ron Dellums, Oakland Green Jobs Corps trainees, and members of the training partnership who will receive a \$250,000 grant from the city of Oakland. Demonstrations will also be provided by OGJC trainees and representatives from Solar City – an OGJC business participant.

The historic Oakland Green Jobs Corps partnership has been awarded to three agencies: Laney College, Cypress Mandela Training Center, Inc., and Growth Sector Inc. Together, they form a landmark partnership that will provide world-class job training, environmental education, and connections to green jobs to at least 40 low-income Oakland residents. Students will learn green construction skills, solar installation, energy efficiency techniques, and more during its inaugural session.

"Providing quality jobs in a growing economic sector is crucial for the future of Oakland," said Mayor Dellums. "Expanding existing entry points into our workforce through the creation of green jobs will solidify this city's position as a national leader on green economic growth and advance our vision of Oakland as a model, sustainable city."

Instruction will take place at the Cypress Mandela Training Center, a nationally renowned pre-apprenticeship program that has decades of experience training and educating young adults with barriers to employment. "We are very excited about being able to help place Oakland residents with much needed jobs by providing an important curriculum which will include both classroom and hands-on instruction," said Art Shanks, Executive Director of the Cypress Mandela Training Center, Inc. "It's a win-win for the environment, Oakland residents, and the future of Oakland."

"Green jobs are a way out of poverty and the destruction of our planet," said Oakland

City Council member Nancy Nadel. "What an exciting convergence of opportunity to improve the planet and the people who live on it."

The Ella Baker Center for Human Rights is an anchor organization for the Oakland Apollo Alliance, the coalition that instigated the Oakland Green Jobs Corps project. The Ella Baker Center for Human Rights was actively involved in designing, championing, and winning city funding for the Oakland Green Jobs Corps.

"This is an historic day for Oakland and the country as a whole," said Ian Kim, Director of the Ella Baker Center's Green-Collar Jobs Campaign. "The Oakland Green Job Corps will provide new opportunities and hope to many families and young people of Oakland by providing the training needed for dignified careers in the burgeoning green economy."

"Laney College will develop and provide the educational foundation needed to prepare low-income Oakland residents for entry into meaningful and economically self-sustaining green careers," said Peter Crabtree, Dean of Instruction for the Vocational Technology at Laney College. "The greening of the United States has only just begun, and the range and volume of job opportunities in alternative energy production and energy efficiency will continue to grow rapidly."

The participating businesses who will provide employment opportunities to the trainees include Solar City, Sunlight & Power, Swinerton, Canyon Construction, REC Solar, Weather Tight, Sungevity, Dan Antionioli Construction.

**WHEN:** October 20th, 11:00 AM

**WHERE:** Cypress Mandela Training Center, 2229 Poplar St, Oakland, CA

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