



**Detroiters Working for
Environmental Justice**
Fostering Clean, Healthy and Safe Communities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Thursday, June 30, 2016

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Training program provides Detroit residents with career development in energy efficiency and sustainability

Clean energy, energy efficiency experts offer career development to Detroit Smart Neighborhood Program trainees

DETROIT – On Wednesday, June 29, participants in the **Detroit Smart Neighborhood Training Pilot Program** were educated about career opportunities in clean energy, energy efficiency and sustainable construction from a panel of experts and businesses in those fields. The panel exposed trainees to career opportunities related to training they received through the Smart Neighborhood Training Program.

“The panel was immensely successful and provided program trainees with important information to help them enter the rapidly growing clean energy, energy efficiency and sustainability industries,” said **Leila Mekias**, with **Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice**. “We are happy to partner in this program and look forward to future progress toward our shared goal of sustainable redevelopment of Detroit.”

The Smart Neighborhood Training Program prepares trainees to work in weatherization, energy auditing and modelling in SketchUp to promote development of more energy efficient buildings and create jobs. The career development panel featured experts in clean energy, energy efficiency and construction, including **Kevin McNeeley** of **McNeeley Building Group**, **Stephen Christensen** of **DeCiBeL** and energy representatives from **Strawberry Solar** and the **International Brotherhood of Electric Workers**. The event took place at clean energy development non-profit **Next Energy** in Detroit.

The Detroit Smart Neighborhood Training Program is sponsored by a broad partnership of organizations, education institutions and businesses, including the Southwest Housing Solutions, Lawrence Technological University, McNeeley Building Group and the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment. For additional information about the Detroit Smart Neighborhood Program and a full list of partners, contact Leila Mekias at (313) 833-3935 x 45, Leila@dwej.org.

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