

Transcript: [Episode 20 / February 1, 2010](#)

Coming up next on ATETV.

Wind technology.

I realized that the wind industry was a growing industry. So far we've learned general information about how wind turbines are put together.

Career opportunities for technicians.

There's a huge void right now in the technician level.

And energy education.

If somebody wants to go ahead and figure the widths and height here, probably up above the window to the white point would be the heated space.

Now on ATETV.

From across the country to your own backyard, ATETV shows you the many advanced technological education opportunities available at your local community college.

Interested in green technology but don't know where to begin? Programs in alternative energy are great place to start.

Let's meet Jonathan who's studying to be a wind turbine technician at Laramie County Community College.

My name is Jonathan Terry and I go to school at Laramie County Community College here in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

How come we have a resistance difference in start winding?

Because the wire size is smaller.

Because the wire size is smaller.

A year and a half ago, I was in West Virginia and I saw a wind farm. It was the first wind farm I'd ever seen, and I said "Wow, that would be a fun, fun thing to get into." I didn't know anything windmills, didn't know anybody in the industry, so I looked for programs and classes and I found this. I've been living in Florida all my life and I thought it wouldn't hurt to see a different part of the world. And this is definitely a different part of the world.

For 30 minutes or after it's been running.

I have a bachelor's degree in International Business and I thought to myself this is a terrible time to find a job. Let me go do something else right now. I realized that the wind industry was a growing industry.

But as you're going through this, I do want you to take a look. And once you inspect that, take a look at it. See if you can see anywhere.

There are 20 people in our class and we split it up between lecture classes and hands-on classes and computer classes. So far we've learned general information about how wind turbines are put together.

We actually went out to the Happy Jack Wind Farm just west of town and we climbed up in their wind turbines, used their climb safety techniques to go up and down and make sure we were safe. That was very helpful 'cause it's a very important aspect of the job.

Getting in to a program like this is a way to definitely gain an advantage over people who don't have any training at all in this area. I've definitely have learned things here that I will be able to apply to the rest of my career.

Jonathan is getting a great start in the wind industry, thanks to the community college program he's taking. If you love the outdoors, working with your hands, and are considering a green career, be sure to visit your local community college for more information on wind technology.

Think there's no room for you in today's job market? Think again. The demand for skilled technicians has never been higher. And community colleges all across the US are preparing students for hands-on careers in every technology field. Take a look.

There is a national shortage of qualified workers and skilled workers that we need immediately. We need more and more of them every year to be competitive with global manufacturing.

It is sometimes hard to find the employees that we need to have the skills.

There's a huge void in green tech right now in the technician level. There's very few people today that really work with their hands and can take complex machine such as a wind turbine and install it in the field and then maintain it.

Almost all of the research laboratories hire technicians and they're intimately involved in conducting the research. They work under the leadership of a research scientist who defines the problem and the strategy, and then works very closely with the technical staff to actually execute those studies.

The ability for the two-year community colleges to deliver these workers as quickly as they can, this is an area that has become critical to the United States economic position in the world.

If you've been thinking about a career as a technician, now is the time to get started. Steady high paying jobs are waiting to be filled, and you could be working in your chosen field in as little as two years. Be sure to visit your local community college today for more information.

Have you ever heard of an energy audit? It's when skilled technicians measure how much energy a home uses and then evaluate how energy can be used more efficiently.

We're going to Sinclair Community College where they're partnering with local affordable housing groups to teach students how to perform energy audits.

All of our systems up here, it's also a web-based program.

And as you--If somebody wants to go ahead and figure the widths and height here, probably up above the window to the white point would be the heated space. John, you wanna go to the back side?

This house was vacant when we bought it. It had numerous code violations.

So you got 12-6?

The house was demoed unto the studs, everything replaced from there on up. We tried to make it as energy efficient as possible and then we partnered with Sinclair to do an energy audit to see how well we did.

We're gonna double-check and make sure that everything is sealed up nice and tightly, and that everything is in working order.

Sinclair is working with people who are interested in weatherization programs and how can we get involved in weatherization programs.

I went to a green conference and Bob told me that he worked for Sinclair in energy. And so I said, "Wow, we would really like to have some of our projects audited."

Yeah, a list of all these too.

Okay.

And within a couple of months he had students out and had done five audits on our homes.

We do homes for Habitat here and we were working on a home that some of the Sinclair students did a ceiling job on and also did HVAC. And it was the best performance and the best home that Habitat had done that year because these guys were on top of it.

Oh, here's a marvel, hang on.

I volunteered for Habit for Humanity and we just did the same type of things in terms of energy analysis, caulking different openings to make sure that there was no infiltration of air.

So all of a sudden we had a crew that was actually trained on how to seal up penetrations in the house to avoid air infiltration.

Which is another 400 or 500 dollars.

It creates an awareness about what can be gained from energy efficiency. And then possibilities for our students in the job market just keeps increasing and increasing.

We value and appreciate our association with Sinclair. Biggest benefit, providing a better product for the community and the homeowner.



With the high cost of energy, there's no doubt that more and more energy audits will be needed both at home and in industry, and the demand for skilled technicians to perform those audits, and analyze the results will continue to rise. If you're interested in a career helping people while conserving our environmental and energy resources, then a program in energy education at your local community college might be for you.

And for more information on anything you've seen today, explore our website at atetv.org.

Thanks for watching.