

Ash Institute Summer Fellowship in Urban Policy Project Description | 2009

Louisville Metro Government, Louisville, Kentucky “Green Job” Strategy

Background and Context:

In 2003, Louisville Metro merged Louisville and Jefferson County governments to become the 16th largest city in the nation (www.louisvilleky.gov). Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson has focused initiatives within successive Metro Strategic Plans to develop, reinforce and move forward with a bold “Green Agenda.” Responsibility for developing and advancing the Green Agenda lies with Ted Pullen, P.E., Director of the Metro Department of Public Works and Assets.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is forecasting a 500% increase in the number of “green jobs” over the next 30 years. Like many metropolitan areas, Louisville is interested in pursuing the development of “green jobs.” However, due to its geographic location, Louisville faces many constraints when it comes to pursuing clean or alternative energy and their related jobs.

Louisville is the largest city in one of America’s top coal-producing states, which has produced an expectation of abundant and inexpensive energy. Further, the state has extremely low potential for development of wind power. On the other hand, the city sits at the center of a major transportation network, has an extensive distribution system, and a long manufacturing history. Further, Louisville Metro recently developed a master plan for a 1,400-acre older industrial corridor to reposition the area to attract green investment, green technology and green jobs.

Project Description:

The Ash Fellow, working with a team of Metro staff and collaborative partners, will:

- Analyze metro Louisville’s economic, environmental and geographic climate in order to define appropriate “green jobs” for this region
- Inventory existing “green jobs”
- Develop a strategy to create/attract new “green jobs”
- Address companion workforce education training considerations

Desired Product:

A strategic plan to identify and create or attract “green jobs” in Louisville, along with the resources needed to implement this strategy and to train a suitable workforce, will become a significant addition to Louisville Metro’s 2010 Green Agenda.

Collaborative Partners:

Besides staff within the Department of Public Works, the Ash Fellow will work closely with the Metro Economic Development Dep’t. (<http://www.louisvilleky.gov/economicdevelopment/>); Kentuckiana Works, a workforce investment mechanism (<http://www.kentuckianaworks.org/>); Greater Louisville Inc., the metro chamber of commerce (<http://www.greaterlouisville.com/>); and the partners of the Partnership for a Green City, an environmental collaboration among Metro, the University of Louisville and Jefferson County Public Schools (www.partnershipforagreencity.org). The Fellow will also have access to resources of the U.S. Conference of Mayors’ Climate Center as well as Louisville’s director of federal affairs.

Logistics:

The project will begin in mid-June and extend for approximately 10 weeks. The Ash Fellow will be housed in the Department of Public Works and Assets in the Metro Development Center in downtown Louisville. Metro Government will provide office space, access to a computer and other office equipment, and office supplies.