



*Feel the Power*

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## **Weatherization Works – and Puts Local People to Work**

### *Skilled and Certified Las Vegas Weatherization Workers Graduate Training Program on National Weatherization Day*

**Las Vegas, NV** – The Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) Local 872 graduated its third class of skilled weatherization workers today, October 30, National Weatherization Day. A representative from Jetstream Construction attended the graduation ceremony and presented the newly certified weatherization workers with job offers.

The 21 new graduates completed a challenging two-week training program where they learned general construction skills in addition to core weatherization competencies, such as energy auditing and insulating. They will begin retrofitting local homes as soon as November 1, when the state is scheduled to begin releasing the federal stimulus money that will help fund thousands of retrofits in Southern Nevada.

**“The skilled and credentialed weatherization workers LIUNA graduated today are ready to get to work retrofitting the more than a thousand poorly insulated homes in our area and help local families save money on their energy bills,”** said Training Director Mark Edgel, who led local officials on a tour of LIUNA's training facility after the graduation ceremony while the graduates demonstrated their newly acquired weatherization skills. **“LIUNA wants these new graduates to have the skills they need to advance in family-supporting jobs and make a good career out of weatherizing American homes and businesses for years to come.”**

LIUNA has designed a breakthrough national program to train thousands of workers in communities across the country to do skilled energy efficiency retrofits, in order to meet the demand for a skilled weatherization workforce. LIUNA trainees learn detailed weatherization skills at LIUNA's nationwide network of training centers, and have the opportunity to advance in family-supporting careers.

It is estimated that LIUNA's national training program will create hundreds of thousands of new jobs, reduce household energy costs by \$3.5 billion a year and save the equivalent of 500 million barrels of oil annually. Both Green for All ([www.greenforall.org](http://www.greenforall.org)) and Good Jobs First ([www.goodjobsfirst.org](http://www.goodjobsfirst.org)) have highlighted LIUNA's weatherization model as an example of weatherization work done right.

The average family can save \$350 or more a year on their utility bills after a weatherization. Retrofitting is also a cost effective way to help our environment, because the energy wasted in homes

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contributes heavily to pollution in communities. American homes (particularly those in the Northeast) burn oil that comes from foreign sources, so weatherization can also bolster our nation's energy security by helping to curb the amount of foreign oil that is wasted on poorly insulated windows, doors and roofs.

**“This is a great pathway for individuals to a career in the green energy movement. We expect that within the next decade, the demand for highly skilled employees in the green energy market will grow as new technology grows. The Southern Nevada Laborers will be leading the way in this exciting industry,”** said Joe Taylor, Director of Southern Nevada LECET.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act invested \$5 billion to expand the Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program and meet the Obama Administration's goal of weatherizing one million homes a year. This is a nearly 10-fold increase in the amount typically invested in weatherizing poorly insulated homes, but it is still not enough to fix all of the nation's energy inefficient homes. DOE recently announced that it will be allocating over \$400 million in competitive energy efficiency grants, which could help fund weatherization projects in cities like Las Vegas and around the country. LIUNA is working with partners, such as the Sierra Club, to help close the remaining weatherization investment gap and identify ways to ramp up both public *and* private investment in America's weatherization industry, including “pay-as-you-save” models, utility partnerships, bonds and pension fund investments.

For more information on LIUNA's weatherization training program please visit <http://www.liunabuildsamerica.org/weatherize>.

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