



Grant to boost green jobs training in Framingham

By Daily News Staff

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A state grant being awarded to the South Middlesex Opportunity Council will help the organization expand a program that trains people for jobs in green energy fields.

The \$45,318 grant, announced Wednesday, will be used to upgrade a combustion safety lab, part of SMOC's Green Jobs Academy, which offers training in the weatherization and conservation fields.

The grant was awarded by the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center and announced by state representatives Tom Sannicandro, D-Ashland and Chris Walsh, D-Framingham, and state Sen. Karen Spilka, D-Ashland.

Jim Cuddy, SMOC president, said that the money will be used to upgrade the safety lab, making it the only live fuel-fired combustion safety lab in the state. He said the money will also be used to train crew chiefs certified in combustion safety.

"Training and certification in combustion safety will ensure a safe environment for weatherization workers by enabling crew chiefs to recognize hazards that will mitigate the risk of explosions and fires in the workplace," Cuddy wrote in a release. "The fuel-fired lab will enhance the methodology for teaching the basics in combustion equipment safety and increase the safety and efficiency of contractors and students in their daily operations."