



NYSERDA-funded clean energy career training prepares people for green jobs



Derrick McCall. Credit: ZeroDraft

Derrick McCall was ready to make a dramatic change in his life and learn marketable new skills. After filling out stacks of applications, calling to inquire about every job ad, and looking for work at the local mall every day, he was getting frustrated that his persistence had yet to yield employment.

Making connections

Fortunately, Derrick learned about YouthBuild Schenectady, a career development program that is offered through the Northeast Parent & Child Society and provides GED and construction training. Northeast Parent & Child Society works with a number of community partners in the Capital District to help protect children, preserve families, and strengthen the communities it serves. NYSERDA supports Northeast Parent & Child Society's workforce development program, which prepares young adults (ages 18 to 24) for green job opportunities in New York State's clean energy economy.

In addition to learning advanced construction skills, Derrick picked up valuable communication, presentation, and leadership skills that he will use throughout his career. Through his YouthBuild training, Derrick earned certification from the Building Performance Institute (BPI), which helped him secure a job as an insulation technician with heating, cooling, and energy specialists ZeroDraft. ZeroDraft is a participating contractor in NYSERDA's Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® program. Employment opportunities are growing in the Home Performance market and lead to sustainable careers that make a difference in the clean energy economy.

"I feel like the work I'm doing is for a good cause. It's making a difference. I get to play my part in the world."

— Derrick McCall
Insulation Technician, ZeroDraft



Derrick McCall. Credit: ZeroDraft

Putting energy into the future

Derrick continues to learn new lessons every day, whether it is how to analyze and diagnose a problem in a home or how to work with his ZeroDraft colleagues. If not for YouthBuild and his career training, Derrick says he wouldn't have a GED or a job. Today, he has a stable and rewarding career helping people save money on their energy bills.

Derrick is grateful for the funding that supports similar training programs across the State. "So many people need to find jobs and they don't know how. A place that provides help to people who need jobs, want to better themselves, and don't want to settle for what they have . . . it's so important."

Get started

Call **1-866-NYSERDA** or visit **nysERDA.ny.gov/workforce** today and take the first step toward making a positive change for our economy, our environment, and our world.