First step: Establishing Institute for Energy & Environmental Sustainability (IEES)

In 2009, at the direction of the President and District Board of Trustees of Palm Beach State College (PBSC), the college established an energy and environmental institute (IEES) dedicated to meet the community’s need for a highly-trained workforce in emerging Green Industries. With support and guidance from IEES business & industry advisors, working goals to be accomplished included:

- Developing collaborative curriculum development project with Florida Energy Systems Consortium to create demonstration projects for energy systems technology; create new college credit certificates and degrees in Smart Grid sciences and technology

- Producing a pipeline of highly qualified technicians from entry level to advanced for the Clean and Alternative & Renewable energy industry with attention to: Smart Grid Technology and Energy Systems Technology Management

- Creating “rigorous” and “relevant” courses of study and curriculum aligned with STEM standards / benchmarks to prepare highly-skilled employees for Green occupations requiring more technically advanced education and training (i.e. merging of Trade & Industry with Green-STEM academics)

- Developing articulation agreements with Florida secondary schools, colleges and state universities to enable students to achieve advanced degrees in new and emerging Green industry occupations (e.g. 2+2+2 or Career and Professional Education Act creates initiative to develop a knowledge-based economy beginning with junior and senior year to associate’s degree program to full bachelor’s degree)