



**RENEWABLE
ENERGY
PARTNERS**

CLIMATE GENERATION: SOLUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND POVERTY

JAMEZ STAPLES

Renewable Energy Partners

- Minneapolis-based solar developer and contractor
- Certified Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)
- Pathways to Prosperity training grant recipient



Renewable Energy Partners (Cont'd)

Social Mission

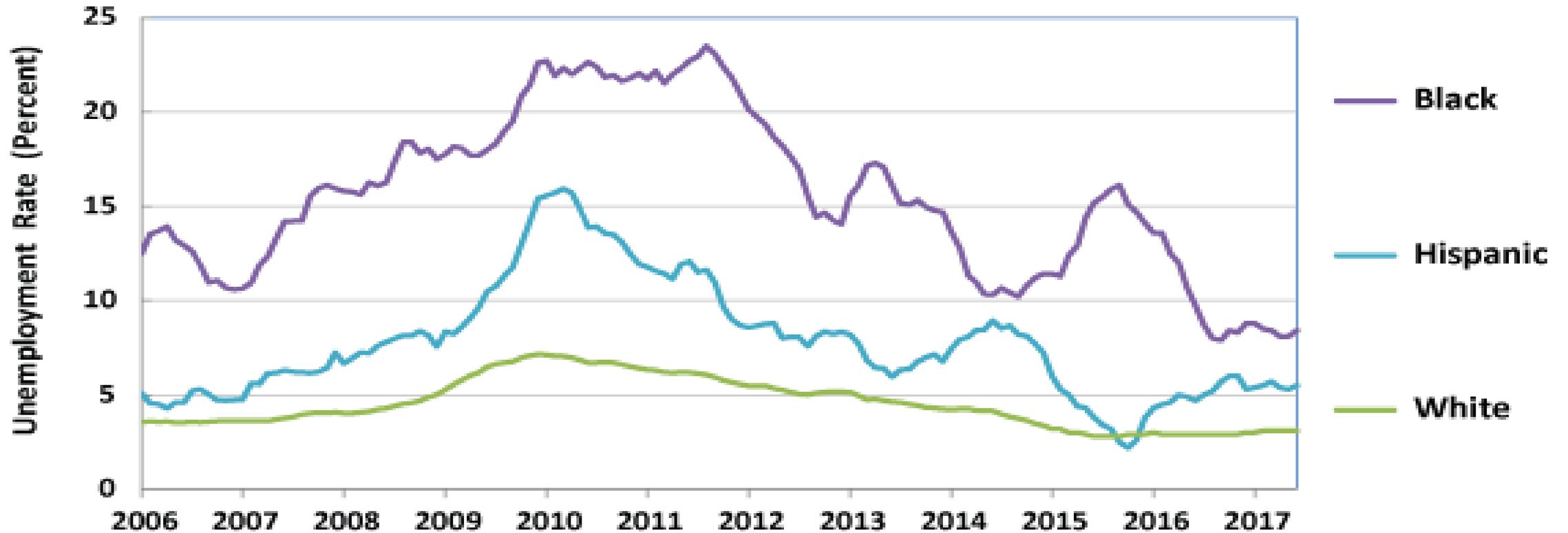
To provide career opportunities in the emerging solar energy industry for people of color while mitigating climate change.



Three BIG Problems



Minnesota Unemployment by Selected Race or Ethnicity



Source: Minnesota DEED, Labor Market Information, Current Population Survey

Unemployment

1960 Blacks 13.6% Whites 2.9%

2017 Blacks 8.4% Whites 3.1%



Energy Workforce Needs in Minnesota

- Workforce gap of 7,000 by 2020- Minnesota Energy Center
- Average wage of the top 20 energy jobs in MN was \$29.56/hour
- Average age 55+ was 12.5% of workforce in 2000, 27.7% now
- Workforce was predominantly white male in 2000 and still is today.



Addressing Climate Change and Poverty, Simultaneously

- Pathways for people of color and minority business enterprises
- Target subjects of the disparity to participate in the industry
- Increase access to training and capital for start ups
- Address skilled and craft labor shortages in construction and utilities
- Corporate interest in leveraging supply chain
- Coordinate with STEM to reinvent training delivery model



Lack of Access to Training



Xcel Energy Training Facility, Hugo, MN

IBEW Joint Apprenticeship Training Center, St. Michael, MN

Laborers Joint Apprenticeship Training Center, Lionel Lakes, MN



Multipurpose Training Facility

Renewable Energy Partners has acquired the former Workforce Building at 1200 Plymouth Ave North Minneapolis, MN

Interim use of existing building to provide access to new and existing training programs.

New state-of-the-art training facility-80,000 square feet

Links to public schools/MN State institutions/industry training

Experiential/apprenticeships/paid on-the-job training



Multipurpose Training Facility: Next Steps

Form advisory group/Board of Directors for MTF

Enter into agreements with Minnesota
State/Minneapolis Schools

PSEO, internships, apprenticeships for young people

Outreach to labor unions for training partnerships



Vision for Clean Energy Future

Minnesota solidifies position as Clean Energy/Climate leader

Energy career pathways narrow skills/education/income gaps

MTF succeeds as employer-driven, custom training facility

Minnesota has skilled workforce needed to reach 100% Renewable Portfolio Standard

North Minneapolis flourishes as model of urban sustainability



Thank you

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