

## Training targets 'clean energy' jobs

By ADAM SMITH

There are very few good reasons why an 18-year-old would be hanging around on the roof of a building. Deylih Teruel recently had one of those reasons. Teruel, a student at Boston's Madison Park Technical Vocational High School, was showing off a solar-thermal water heater that he helped install on top of the Red House restaurant in Harvard Square.

"I feel good," he said about the work he completed in a paid afterschool program that complements his plumbing training at Madison Park.

The installation is part of a recent trend: The greening of Boston-area job training courses. As billions of dollars in federal, state and city money, tax credits and other financial incentives support power-saving initiatives, several educational centers in the Hub have either started so-called "green" job-training programs or greatly expanded existing ones.

JFYNetWorks is planning two new courses — one in energy efficiency and another in solar panel installation — to begin this summer. The Boston-based nonprofit group also plans to expand an existing 14-week environmental cleanup course supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"The area of conservation — I think that's where we're going to see a lot of growth" in the economy, said Gary Kaplan, executive director of JFYNetWorks.

Kaplan points to the opening of the funding floodgates that's pouring greenbacks into green jobs and job training. The recently passed federal economic stimulus act targets billions of dollars for energy conservation efforts, environmental cleanup and renewable energy initiatives. And, just months before that bill was signed, Gov. Deval Patrick signed the Green Jobs Act to support the state's so-called clean energy technology industry with \$68 million over five years. The city of Boston, meanwhile, is funneling hundreds of thousands of dollars into such training projects as well.



STAFF PHOTO BY TED FITZGERALD

**GREEN FUTURE:** Gary Kaplan, left, executive director of JFY Networks watches Terrence Proctor, center, and Roy Lopes train at a Suffolk University lab to learn how to clean up heavily polluted sites.

For JFYNetWorks, this has meant big money. The group received a \$200,000 state grant for its solar panel assembly and installation program that will train about 50 people per year. In addition, Kaplan is hoping to win a \$500,000 "brownfield" job-training grant from the EPA to train more students how to clean contaminants from the ground. A brownfield is a site, often urban, that has been polluted by previous uses, such as industry.

The grant, which would be spread over three years, would be on top of the \$200,000 biannual EPA grant that funds the school's current cleanup training course. (The energy-efficiency program that will begin teaching energy auditing and building weatherproofing to 50 students a year later this summer will be paid for mostly by a \$200,000 grant from a private foundation.)

Brynna Ledyard, a manager at the Red House, said the initial cost will be worth it in the long run. "I know it is a big investment," said Ledyard. "But you have to look ahead." Besides, she added, "Who doesn't want to be green?"

Kaplan agreed that green job training makes sense, because while government funding is supporting classroom time, it is also going toward job creation. This is especially true of the EPA-funded brownfields and superfund initiatives, which have poured billions of dollars over the past decade and a half into cleanup programs.

"The EPA has been very forward thinking," said Kaplan. But, he added, money for energy conservation will be coming from many more sources over the next several years, which is good news for his — and other — students.

"I think there will be a lot of jobs," he said.