

Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI)

Developing the Future Workforce for Electric Vehicles and Charging, Today

The Challenge

As the number of electric vehicles (EVs) rapidly expands across the U.S. and world, an entire new set of skilled workers is needed to support this fast-growing industry and the home, workplace and public chargers that power them. This workforce, already in high demand, does not exist in the numbers needed to ensure a smooth transition to electric mobility. One important reason is that education and awareness around these current and future jobs is severely lacking, and job training opportunities are even further behind. To avoid the risk of disrupting supply chains, daily commutes, the economy and the transportation sector in its entirety, communities everywhere need this workforce of skilled technicians, electricians, engineers, maintenance staff, customer service representatives and beyond. The EV industry has a key role to play in funding science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education programs and workforce development initiatives to help quickly develop and train the workforce of today and tomorrow.

The Solution

Electrify America has and continues to invest in zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) education, awareness and marketing – specifically in STEM and workforce development. In 2021, Electrify America awarded more than \$1.6 million to four organizations for these types of programs, including LACI. LACI’s APC Fellowship Program partnered with the Los Angeles Trade Technical College to develop a new EV Maintenance Training program to prepare participants from disadvantaged communities for a new career as an EV maintenance technician. Participants had hands-on access to LACI’s state-of-the-art Advanced Prototyping Center (APC) facilities, as well as a portfolio of company employers, providing a seamless employment transition for graduates. Participants left the program well-versed in various EV and hybrid systems configurations as well as high-voltage battery construction and maintenance.

The Results

LACI set ambitious success metrics for the program, including at least an **83% completion rate for the Bootcamp, 50% placement of participants in internships, and 73% of participants employed or pursuing post-secondary education** following program completion. They overwhelmingly surpassed these goals and by December 2021, the EV Maintenance Program had **engaged 47 Technical Bootcamp participants** from low-to-moderate income communities. The program also **increased participants’ hands-on experience with zero emissions mobility to 100%**. All of the Technical Bootcamp participants earned at least one industry-recognized credential, and some earned as many as four. Finally, **more than half of participants were placed in an internship**, with several others making strong connections and job leads.



About LACI

LACI is creating an inclusive green economy for the people of Los Angeles by working with startups to accelerate the commercialization of clean technologies, transforming markets through partnerships with policymakers, innovators, and market leaders in transportation, energy, and sustainable cities, and enhancing communities through workforce development, pilots, and other programs. LACI is recognized as one of the most innovative business incubators in the world by UBI Global and in the past ten years has helped 375 portfolio companies raise \$858 million in funding, generated \$335 million in revenue, and created 2,626 jobs throughout the Los Angeles region, with a projected 5-year economic impact of more than \$585 million.

Electrify America funded STEM and workforce development programs at LACI to support training for jobs in the electric vehicle and charging industry.



83% completion rate for the Bootcamp



50% placement of participants in internships



73% participants employed or pursuing post-secondary education

“I’m a graduate of LACI’s workforce development program. Thanks to this program I’ve been able to realize my goal of helping the world, helping my daughter, helping her kids and helping future generations by working as part of the new clean tech economy. I’ve been able to introduce it to my neighborhood and to the people who look up to me who otherwise wouldn’t have access.”

— MAURICE GAITHER, GREEN WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAM GRADUATE