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Building Confidence • Teaching Skills • Changing Lives

**Media Advisory
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Area Women “Step Up” to Green Electrical and Plumbing Through Collaborative Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program

Partnership between Vermont Works for Women, Vermont Green, IBEW Local 300, Plumber and Pipefitters Local 693, and the Vermont Department of Labor Trains Women for Green Jobs

Sixteen women from across the state are learning valuable job skills this summer in an innovative new pre-apprenticeship job training program coordinated by Vermont Works for Women and funded by Vermont Green, a program of Central Vermont Community Action Council, Inc. The seven week pre-apprenticeship program provides women with 60 hours of on the job technical training in either the green electric or green plumbing field.

You are invited to attend a session of the training on Saturday June 25th or Saturday July 9th from 8:00am to 4:00pm. The June 25th session will be held at the Union Training Center, 3 Gregory Drive in S. Burlington. The July 9th session will be held at the Leroy Avenue Training Center, 177 Leroy Avenue in Williston. Bring a camera—there will be great opportunities for photographs!

“This program is an important opportunity for women looking to become economically independent in fields where there is tremendous opportunity for growth and advancement,” said Tiffany Bluemle, Executive Director of Vermont Works for Women. “We hope to be able to sustain the program in the years ahead so that more women in Vermont will be able to take advantage of it.”

In addition to the hands-on electrical and plumbing training, participants learn job development and retention skills geared toward helping them be successful in their new non-traditional careers. The feedback has been positive. “I’m just excited to be a part of it and so thankful that I got a chance to do it; it’s a great chance to better my life,” exclaimed Mel White from Rutland. Danielle Bombadier of Colchester enjoys the “awesome hands-on opportunities” and is “excited about the green focus” of the training. Tammy Wells of Highgate commented that “just being selected for the program gave me confidence and helped me believe in myself.”

This program is made possible through Vermont Green funding with the support of the IBEW Local 300, the Plumber and Pipefitters Local 693, and the Vermont Department of Labor. Vermont Green, a program of the Central Vermont Community Action Council, is a diverse statewide public-private partnership preparing workers for a variety of green jobs. Funding for these initiatives is provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through the U.S. Department of Labor.

Vermont Works for Women is a non-profit organization founded in 1987 to help women and girls recognize their potential, and explore, pursue, and excel in work that leads to economic independence. Through innovative programming, VWW assists women and girls in thinking about their lives in the broadest terms and helps them develop skills and capacities critical to their long-term economic self-sufficiency.

For more information, contact Lucy Comstock-Gay at 802-655-8900, ext. 110, 603-731-6041 (cell) or lcomstockgay@vworkforwomen.org.

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Photos:

Upper left: Tanya Rock (left) watches as Patiance Johnson uses a rotary hammer to anchor piping racks to a concrete wall.

Upper right: Heidi Faunce (left) catches the unistrut Jessica Taylor (right) is cutting with a portable band saw.

Lower left: Carmel Kelley uses a hack saw while cutting unistrut.

Photographs by StaciAnne Grove

Funding provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through the U.S. Department of Labor in partnership with Vermont Green, a program of Central Vermont Community Action Council, Inc.

