



WORKFORCE TRANSITION

RecycleForce

Learn more about models for supporting workforce development and advancing equitable access to the clean jobs' sector



RecycleForce Team

LOCATION

Indianapolis, IN

ENTITY

Nonprofit organization

CLEAN JOB SECTOR

Energy efficiency

RecycleForce is a social enterprise committed to reducing crime through employment and job training, while improving the environment through electronic recycling. Since 2006, RecycleForce has safely recycled more than 65 million pounds of electronic waste in their Pathway Home program facility in Indianapolis, IN. Through the program, RecycleForce hires formerly incarcerated men and women and provides them job training and support services in preparation for their transition to full-time employment. RecycleForce is a program that has “increased individuals employment, earnings and reduced recidivism” thereby accomplishing the primary goals of the program, according to the Enhanced Transitional Jobs Demonstration (ETJD) study, sponsored by the Employment and Training Administration in the U.S. Department of Labor.

RecycleForce helps formerly incarcerated individuals find employment by providing paid temporary jobs in recycling electronics (things like old computers and cell phones) and hands-on training with large machines in the warehouse—shredders, balers, and machines that separate metal and plastic.

RecycleForce’s basic workforce training program includes forklift and warehouse training, OSHA, and HAZWOPER 40; additionally, participants receive financial, mental health, and educational literacy classes. Participants can also receive paid training to get ready for permanent job placement after completing the program. RecycleForce’s Any Job, Better Job, Career model (The ABC Model) offers stepped-down public safety oversight while

participants earn an income and stay connected to the training and development activities needed to gain skills to become fully employable in the mainstream labor market. Importantly, this will help them identify the career they may enter into that can provide the earnings and rewards for a successful life.

Since 2006, RecycleForce has employed nearly 1,200 men and women, helping them break down the barriers to employment by providing transitional jobs for up to six months, industry-recognized training and certification, on-the-job training, and job placement services. RecycleForce can recycle old electronics, decluttering space and making an impact on the environment and the citizens of the community.

TESTIMONY

“They give a lot of on-the-job training here, like warehouse safety and a few more certificates that should help me search for employment. When you apply for jobs in a lot of places, they ask for your educational level and if the only thing you can put down is a GED, that makes it pretty hard because I am sure that 90% of people applying for a job have got a GED.”

- RecycleForce Participant

“It gave me the confidence in myself again to accomplish something. Between the certifications, training and peer mentoring, I believed in myself again and that gave me the confidence to do what I’m doing.”

- Mary Avery, RecycleForce Participant

Website: <https://recycleforce.org/>