

An Initiative of the California Workforce Development Board

The Center for Manufacturing a Green Economy (CMGE) is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, initiated by the United Auto Workers (UAW) Region 6. In partnership with the Sparkz corporation, CMGE will create a detailed plan for a comprehensive workforce development project in the advanced manufacturing green energy sector. The UAW entered into a national labor neutrality agreement with the Sparkz Corporation in 2023, making headlines with their joint commitment to end-to-end, union-led workforce recruitment and training. Sparkz' patented zero cobalt Lithium-ion batteries require a specialized and unique manufacturing process. The primary objective of CMGE is to develop High Road training programs connected to career pathways in the Lithium-ion Battery manufacturing sector for blue collar workers. Shop floor skills require dexterity and attention to detail, along with the ability to preserve a clean and safe environment.

CMGE will recruit Sparkz workers, create a customized pre-employment training curriculum, provide wraparound services for participants, and potentially develop an apprenticeship program in partnership with Sparkz engineers and supervisors, to teach the specific skills that workers will need to produce Sparkz' EV batteries. There will be a range of job openings: high-skilled machine operators and engineers, production technicians, and maintenance workers. Sparkz, the company partner, estimates hiring 700 plant workers initially and eventually hiring up to 1,000 positions including all professional levels.

TARGET POPULATION

This planning project will not serve participants.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Create a partnership in the Advanced Manufacturing, Green Energy sector of the California economy that generates entry-level industrial jobs that require specialized training to produce the patented Lithium-ion batteries designed by the employer partner, Sparkz.
- Creation of a high road workforce development EV battery industry prototype that will address the skills needed on the shop floor, promote safe conditions, and create good jobs.
- Contract with educational partners for participation on the curriculum development team.
- Convene Labor/Management Oversight Committee and establish a formal memorandum of understanding.

KEY PARTNERS

- Sparkz Corporation
- United Auto Workers Region 6
- Sacramento Employment and Training Agency (SETA)
- California State University Sacramento
- Community Resource Project
- California Conservation Corp
- Center for Workers' Rights
- Anti-Recidivism Coalition

