

Community Engagement and Workforce Development was one of three main themes of the event, alongside themes relating to finance, real estate, and supply chain logistics. In the first session, "Equitable by Design," speakers emphasized the importance of creating jobs and economic opportunities in disinvested communities, highlighting the need for strategies that address barriers like transportation and childcare, while fostering community partnerships. The second session, "Workforce Development for a Decarbonized Economy," focused on aligning skills with the needs of the green economy, discussing the significance of apprenticeships and multi-year training programs, with an emphasis on equity and quality jobs. In the session on "Electrochemistry and Materials Engineering," panelists emphasized the critical role of education and apprenticeship programs in building a skilled workforce for the green economy, focusing on trade-centric training and community college partnerships.

Throughout the conversations, a few important themes emerged:

- **Educating the public about clean energy jobs will take effort.** One speaker gave the example of a community member saying, "I thought the clean economy meant janitorial jobs" and it's our collective responsibility to inform people.
- **The skills required for battery manufacturing are predominantly not new skills.** They're currently being used in advanced manufacturing, construction, water treatment, and other fields.
- **To succeed, California will need to bring together industry, education, regulators, and workforce development** to ensure that the jobs are entry points into long-term careers with good wages and benefits.

The summit underscored the critical need for collaboration across sectors to ensure that California's clean energy future not only drives innovation but also creates sustainable, high-quality jobs for its communities, and WDBCCC was proud to be a key part of this important conversation.