

\$250,000 City Grant Goes to Green Job Corps for Young Adults

By Post Staff

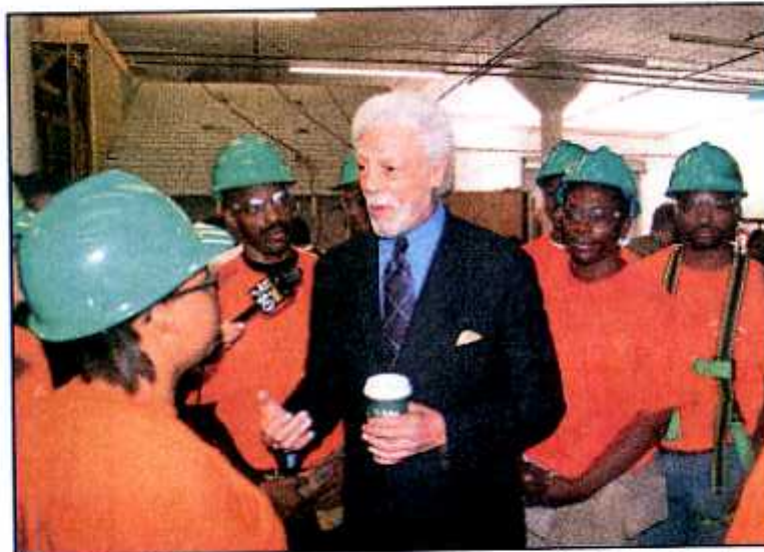
A public and nonprofit partnership this week kicked off the Oakland Green Jobs Corps (OGJC), a program that will provide skills training and "Green-Collar" jobs to young adults with barriers to employment.

A \$250,000 City of Oakland grant will fund the first OGJC class of 40 young trainees.

The training partnership includes the Cypress Mandela Training Center, Laney College and the Growth Sector, Inc.

At Cypress Mandela, the trainees will receive hands-on environmental education, solar installation and energy efficiency techniques. In Laney classroom, they will learn environmental studies and other academic skills they need. And Growth Sector Inc will link them with paid internships and career ladder jobs

Pushing to make this pro-



Mayor Ron Dellums speaks with Green Job Corps trainees at the Cypress Mandela Training Center. Photo by Gene Hazzard.

gram reality were the Oakland-based Ella Center for Human Rights and the Apollo Alliance, Mayor Ron Dellums and members of the Oakland City Council.

The fundamental idea behind the program is to fight pollution and to fight poverty at the same time, Dellums said,

speaking at a press conference Monday at Cypress Mandela.

The Green Job Corps "takes people who have been left behind by every train that has left the station" and trains them to resolve global warming, the greatest threat facing the planet, he said.

"If we don't wrestle this to

the ground, we are going to go to survive as the human family," Dellums said, adding that Congresswoman Barbara Lee has written legislation that would make the Oakland program a model for the nation.

Speaking to the new Green Job Corps trainees, Dellums said, "You are the trailblazers. This is an idea that will travel far beyond Oakland. You will touch people you will never see."

Praising Dellums' leadership, Lee said that the Oakland program "sets the standard for the rest of the country."

Ian Kim, Director of the Green-Collar Jobs Campaign at the Ella Baker Center emphasized the importance of the program for people in the community. "(It) will provide new opportunities and hope to many families and young people of Oakland by providing the training needed for dignified careers in the burgeoning green economy."