ECONOMIC GROWTH INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Michigan Clean Cities

ALIGNING FLINT'S HIGHER EDUCATION WITH EV CAREERS

MiVTTP Impact Story

THE BACKGROUND

Flint, Michigan, has long been a center of automotive manufacturing, with its industrial legacy continuing to shape the city's economy. As the automotive industry transitions toward electric vehicles and clean energy technologies, Flint's higher education institutions, including the University of Michigan-Flint, Kettering University, and Mott Community College, face growing demands to prepare local talent for emerging industries. Despite well-established education programs, opportunities remained to strengthen institutional collaboration and better align workforce training with evolving industry needs.



THE CHALLENGE

Building on the city's strong higher education ecosystem, Flint had an opportunity to align educational programs and workforce training across its institutions with the rapidly evolving needs of the electric vehicle and clean energy sectors.

As part of a strategic planning process, community stakeholders identified gaps in coordination, curriculum alignment, and career pathway development as key barriers to preparing local talent for the emerging clean energy economy. These barriers were further complicated by the limited capacity to map interdisciplinary curriculum across institutions and coordinate emerging workforce pathways. To prepare the local workforce for the electric vehicle and clean energy transition, the region needed a coordinated approach.

THE SOLUTION

The City of Flint's participation in the Michigan Vehicle Technology Transition Impact Project (MiVTTP), a statewide initiative co-led by the University of Michigan Economic Growth Institute (EGI) and Michigan Clean Cities, provided a strategic pathway to advance this work.

Leveraging its expertise in community-oriented workforce development, EGI facilitated direct engagement with community stakeholders and academic leaders from the University of Michigan-Flint, Kettering University, and Mott Community College. Through these discussions, EGI developed a comprehensive project scope informed by stakeholders' shared priorities and opportunities for collaboration. To carry the work forward, EGI contracted Innovative Learning Group (ILG) to lead the Flint-specific electric vehicle and clean energy workforce development project, with funding enabled through MiVTTP.

THE RESULT

ILG's Recommendations for a Coordinated and Strategically Aligned Workforce Development Ecosystem:

Building a Foundation for Collaboration:

A key outcome was a framework to strengthen coordination among the University of Michigan-Flint, Kettering University, and Mott Community College. Previously, these institutions pursued curriculum development, employer engagement, and funding opportunities independently, requiring significant time and resources. The framework enables greater collaboration and clearer education-to-workforce pathways, preparing local talent for careers in emerging industries.

Identifying Opportunities for Curriculum Alignment:

Additionally, the project laid the foundation for developing stackable education and training pathways connecting certificates, degrees, and graduate credentials across Flint's higher education institutions. Through a shared inventory of existing EV and clean energy programs, workforce priorities, training needs, and institutional strengths, it identified complementary capabilities and opportunities for greater collaboration. This alignment could replace duplicated efforts, address training gaps, and clarify pathways into clean energy careers.

> ***"The collaboration was a tremendous success, forging strong professional relationships that will drive ongoing networking across the EV and other sectors."***
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> ***Rebecca Myszenski**, Educational Consultant, Mott Community College*

As a result of this unified regional education strategy, Flint has strengthened its workforce readiness to support the clean energy transition, simultaneously advancing its long-term economic revitalization.

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