After welcoming several large contractors and the Distribution Contractors Association (DCA) as members in 2017, CEWD worked throughout 2018 to identify and address workforce planning and development issues unique to its contractor members. In 2018, CEWD’s newest contractor member INTREN joined existing members Mears Group (Quanta Services), MasTec, Michels, Pike, Framatome, and Premier Power Maintenance.

Here is a summary of the 2018 accomplishments related to contractor engagement in CEWD.

**2018 Accomplishments**

* Contractor member executives were elected to the CEWD Board of Directors and invited to serve on the CEWD Executive Council.
* A Community of Practice was established for contractor members with a group site containing meeting notes, status of projects, goals, and more. The Community of Practice had monthly calls through the first half of 2018 and then moved to quarterly calls. The Community of Practice met face-to-face in 2018 in conjunction with the National Forum and Annual Summit.
* CEWD member benefits webinars were held as requested for individual contractor members and focused on resources of potential benefit, including the Troops to Energy Jobs National Template and website. CEWD facilitated a Workforce Planning workshop on-site for Premier Power.
* CEWD regional consultants worked with contractor members and individual State Energy Workforce Consortia to assure contractor members were invited to join in state consortia work that made the most sense for their operational footprint.
* CEWD facilitated two special projects designed to identify critical contractor jobs and develop an approach for quantifying contractor demand at the national level. The Natural Gas Demand Project ran from January to August. Its objectives were to define the family of gas jobs most critical to contractors, define the current demand and the future demand for the jobs, and incorporate the projections into the 2019 CEWD *Gaps in the Energy Workforce Survey.* The Electric Demand Project ran from September to November and had similar objectives for electric jobs. The projects were successful in defining and agreeing on descriptions, SOC codes, and requirements for the most in-demand jobs. CEWD was unable to translate the demand data provided by the members into national demand projections for use in the survey. Unlike utility data, contractor data isn’t captured at a national level by the Bureau of Labor Statistics or by other means. Because of the lack of national contractor data, CEWD can’t follow its normal demand projection processes and extrapolate a smaller sample to provide national, regional, or state demand pictures.
* Based on the learnings of the Natural Gas Demand and Electric Demand projects, CEWD in late October recommended to the project teams that CEWD develop a new approach to quantifying demand at the state level. Using existing tools like the Contractor Demand Toolkit developed in Wisconsin and analysis tools that have been developed for other state consortia, CEWD committed to developing a new approach for capturing contractor demand that State Energy Workforce Consortia can use.
* As CEWD worked to fully understand the breadth and depth of its contractors’ operations, the organization worked with its members to develop a [Member Service Location Map](http://cewd.org/documents/CEWD-ContractorMap-Nov2018.pdf), which will be updated periodically and shared through [CEWD.org](https://cewd.org/).
* CEWD attended the 2018 DCA Workforce Summit in May and spoke briefly about the value of membership in CEWD.

**2019 Goals**

CEWD’s goals for contractor members in 2019 are to:

* Organize an electric utility contractor forum to improve understanding and develop solutions to workforce sustainability between electric contractors and electric utilities. The forum will draw on best practices from a DCA/AGA utility workshop for gas contractors.
* Develop and deploy a Contractor Demand Planning Resource Guide for use by State Energy Workforce Consortia.
* Create connections at local level by promoting contractor membership and leadership roles in State Energy Workforce Consortia.
* Provide planning and career awareness support and strategy development to individual contractor companies.
* Analyze retention issues of the contractor workforce and recommend solutions.
* Work through DCA to monitor and support DCA’s OQ Integrity Project for gas contractors.
* Identify partnership opportunities between CEWD and DCA through participation in the 2019 DCA Workforce Summit.

**Contact**

For more information about CEWD’s support for contractor members or to inquire about membership in CEWD, contact Beth Britt, Contractor Members Point of Contact, beth@cewd.org, 704-726-9598.