

Smart 2026 Construction Industry Decisions

By Mailla Kim

Success in the construction industry isn't just about hard work. It's about making that hard work count. This means combining your effort with a smart strategy. ConstructConnect Chief Economist Michael Guckes shared critical insights during the "Bid Like a Boss: Strategies to Power Your 2026 Business" webinar to help you do just that. He explored the economic landscape, highlighted specific construction trends, and offered a framework for next steps.

We'll unpack the biggest takeaways from 2025 that are key to setting your business up for success in 2026. Use these takeaways as your roadmap for growth and resilience in the new year.

Economic Outlook for Construction in 2026

To make 2026 your best year yet, you have to understand the broader economic environment. After two years of nearly three percent growth, the United States economy is expected to slow. While this is not a recession, it signals a shift

away from the rapid expansion we've seen in previous years.

Factors that may contribute to this national economic slowdown include:

- **Slowing Population Growth**
A long-term trend of slower population growth directly impacts consumption and, consequently, economic expansion.
- **Stable Interest Rates**
The era of historically low interest rates appears to be over. We anticipate rates will hold more or less steady, meaning the cost of financing projects will remain a significant consideration for the foreseeable future.

For contractors, this moderate economic environment means that opportunities for growth will be more targeted. The most successful construction businesses will focus on identifying and pursuing projects in sectors and markets with the greatest potential. Targeted growth, rather than broad expansion, will be key to making the most of the opportunities that 2026 has to offer.



Growth Areas in the Construction Industry

Total construction starts were up modestly in 2025, but the underlying story is a landscape of sharp contrasts between expanding and shrinking segments. Understanding where the opportunities

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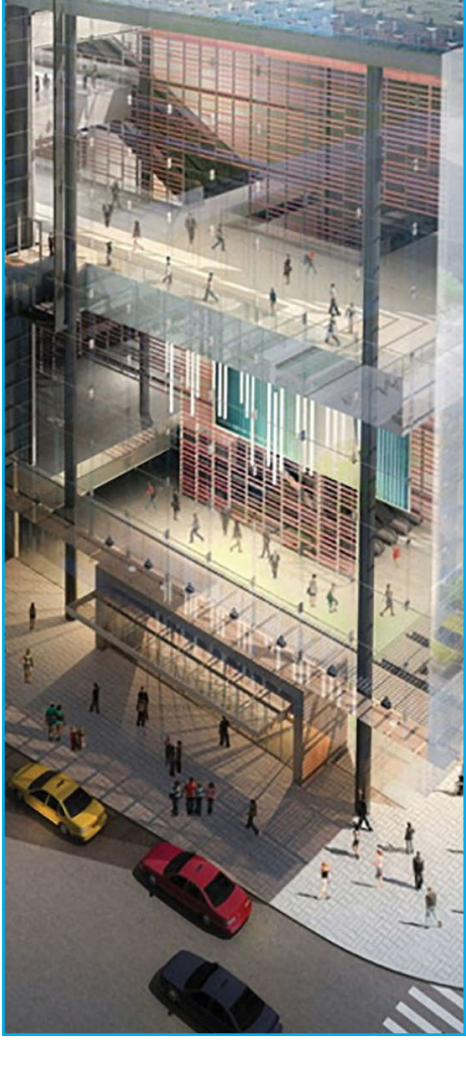
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IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM NEW YORK STATE MWBE SUBCONTRACTORS AND VENDORS

Owl's Head Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility Main Substation Replacement Project NYC DEP Contract No. OH-95 Bid Date: January 29, 2026

Description of project:

The Owl's Head Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility is located at 6700 Shore Road in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, New York, and treats approximately 95 MGD of waste on an average annual basis. The work under this contract includes an upgrade of the existing Main Substation No. 1, installation of new power infrastructure (including transformers, switchgear, service feeds, etc.), sitework such as building and flatwork demolition as well as surface restoration, and other general exterior improvements. The Main Substation construction includes a secant pile support of excavation system, concrete substructure, steel framing, architectural finishes, a fire alarm system, HVAC, etc.

Many bidding opportunities are available:

electrical, plumbing, HVAC, haul and dispose, rebar, masonry, roofing, fencing, paving, waterproofing, windows and doors, fill materials, geotechnical instrumentation and monitoring, environmental testing, flatwork curb and sidewalk, landscaping, office trailers, survey, painting, office cleaning, lumber supply, erosion and sedimentation control supplies, jobsite toilets, MPT supplies, site photography and video, rodent control, arborist, ready-mix concrete supply, fireproofing, furnish and install new concrete masonry units (CMU) and brick, exterior gypsum board wall, EPDM roofing, aluminum screen wall panel, aluminum louvers, overhead coiling doors, stainless steel doors, intumescent paint fireproofing.

If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska's Outreach Coordinator: Aislinn.Speranza@skanska.com • EOE/Vet/Disabled

Scan Here to Apply:

PowerUp2030: Prepare Your Business to Tackle Clean Energy Opportunities

Program Details

Next Cohort

Classes begin February 3rd 2026

Duration

10 week program

Time Commitment

Two and a half hours per week

Location

LaGuardia Community College

29-10 Thomson Ave. Long Island City, NY 11101

Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Education Center, C701

Limited space available, [click here to apply now!](#)

Contact Denise Espinal for more information at 718-663-8400 or powerup2030@lagcc.cuny.edu

Is this Program for You?

It is if you have been in business for at least 5 years in one of these fields:

• Construction

• Electrical

• Plumbing

• HVAC

• or another skilled trade

This initiative is also a good fit for those looking to grow a business through clean energy contracts in the public sector.

What You Will Gain

• Learn what public and private clean energy buyers look for

• Strengthen your approach to pricing, permits, partnerships, and capacity planning

• Meet NYPA representatives, project developers, and clean energy experts

• Build relationships with other business owners navigating the same landscape

• Prepare your business to work on NYPA projects

PowerUp2030 is a joint initiative of the New York Power Authority (NYPA) and LaGuardia Community College. This program is designed to support small businesses, especially those owned by minorities, women, and service-disabled veterans, looking to understand and access clean energy opportunities across New York State.

NEW YORK STATE NY Power Authority

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Learn More

NMSDC

National Minority Supplier Development Council

Small Business Exchange Northeast DEI

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• ITB to Targeted (NAICS/SIC/UNSPSC) Certified Businesses

• Telephone Follow-Up (Live)

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For more info contact Valerie Voorhies at vvv@sbeinc.com

VIRTUAL EVENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

2026

Federal Contracting for Small Businesses Webinar Tuesday, January 13, 2026, 12:00 pm–1:30 pm Online

Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration

Contact: Irene Gonzalez, 208-334-1673, irene.gonzalez@sba.gov

Fee: Free; registration required

Learn the essentials of federal contracting for small businesses. This event will cover the basics of navigating the federal contracting process, as well as the various certifications available to help your small business succeed in the government marketplace. Certifications include: 8(a) Business Development Program, HUBZone Certification, Woman Owned Small Business (WOSB/EDWOSB), and Veteran Owned Small Business (VOSB). Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights and resources to help your small business. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/federal-contracting-basics-and-certifications-for-small-businesses-tickets-1977729716822>

SBA 101: Introduction to SBA Programs Webinar Thursday, January 15, 2026, 10:00 am–11:00 am Online

Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration, Rhode Island District Office

Contact: Brian Hopkins, 401-528-4575, brian.hopkins@sba.gov

Fee: Free; registration required

This free workshop, presented by the Rhode Island

District Office, is designed to help entrepreneurs understand the various SBA programs and services available to help them as they start, expand, grow, and recover their businesses. This overview presentation covers: Introduction to the SBA; SBA Resource Partner Network—Business Training and One-on-One Counseling; Selling to the Federal Government—SBA Contracting Certification Programs; Access to Capital—Loan and Surety Bond Programs; International Trade Assistance; Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Assistance Webinars. Register online for the free workshop webinar at <https://www.sba.gov/event/77580>

Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Certification Program Webinar Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 2:00 pm–4:00 pm Online

Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration

Contact: Patrice Dozier, patrice.dozier@sba.gov

Fee: Free; registration required

SBA is creating a space for Woman-Owned Small Businesses, via WOSB Certification! Are you a woman owner of a small business? The federal government's goal is to award at least five percent of all federal contracting dollars to woman-owned small businesses each year. Join us for training on how to register for SBA's Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) program, which helps eligible small businesses to qualify for federal contracting opportunities. The monthly sessions include an overview of the self-certification process, and a discussion of the NAICS codes that qualify as WOSB or EDWOSB. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/woman-owned-small-business-wosb-certification-program-tickets-1977995825761>