

What is a Green Career?

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A green job:

A green job contributes substantially to preserving or restoring environmental quality. (UN)

This includes jobs that:

- help to protect ecosystems and biodiversity;
- reduce energy, materials, and water consumption through high efficiency strategies;
- de-carbonize the economy;
- and, minimize or altogether avoid generation of all forms of waste and pollution.

Some new jobs, many jobs changing...

- Useful categorization identifying green occupations
 - **Increased Demand** – the work context may change but the tasks do not
 - **Enhanced Skills** – occupations purpose remains the same but the knowledge, skills, credentials will change
 - **New and Emerging** – unique work and worker requirements (Greening the World of Work, ONET)

12 green sectors

1. Renewable Energy Generation
2. Energy Efficiency
3. Energy Trading
4. Environment Protection
5. Recycling and Waste Reduction
6. Governmental and Regulatory
7. Transportation
8. Green Construction
9. Energy and Carbon Capture
10. Research, Design, and Consulting
11. Agriculture and Forestry
12. Manufacturing

Here's what we've seen:

- Insulation business contractor
- Solar thermal installer
- Insulation and air sealing techs
- Energy efficiency technician, crew leader
- Renewable energy organization event manager
- Solar construction company project manager
- PV solar installation start up
- Green skill training curriculum coordinator
- Administrative/clerical position for environmental education program
- Lighting energy specialist
- Researcher for 'green' for utility
- Home energy rater, energy auditor, energy advisor
- Green carpenter
- Program assistant/ marketer for solar housing project
- Municipal sustainability officer
- Building Inspector
- PV-oriented electrician
- HVAC technician for geothermal installations
- Local food coalition director

What we believe will be coming

- Non-toxic product development/modification
- Environmental education
- Urban planning
- Water and air quality management
- Land conservation / management
- Eco-tourism
- Waste management / Recycling
- Deconstruction
- Organic / local agriculture
- Forestry
- Alternative / Public transportation
- Green chemistry

Specific technical skills are needed *as well as other skills and qualifications*

- Readiness to work
- Skills in writing, communication, and analysis as well as STEM areas
- Facility with computers and technology
- Ability to communicate technically and plainly
- Ability to be flexible and adapt to change
- Concern about the environment and the community
- There is a premium on systems thinking

Finding a green job...

The good news

- The economy is greening
- Many drivers:
 - Environmental drivers
 - Economic drivers
 - Policy drivers
 - Consumer interest & concern
- Energy efficiency sector increasingly well-defined, renewable energy coming
- Big and small companies are 'greening' (Walmart, local restaurants)

The not so good news

- Job growth is slow
- Recession
- Hype is preceding job growth

A bit of good and bad news

- It is still a job search

Key walk away points:

- The greening of our economy will be as significant as the Industrial Revolution – **look for effects of greening across all sectors**
- **We are building our greener economy right now** through our policies, investments and purchases
- We don't know all the ways it will change; **watch for the “sweet spot”**
- **Solving the climate crisis will require all workers and all industries to change**

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