

The Bureau of Labor Statistics Green Jobs Initiative

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BLS

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1 2 5 Y E A R S

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BLS Green Jobs Initiative

- People are asking
 - ▶ What's a green job?
 - ▶ How many are there?
 - ▶ Is the number growing?
 - ▶ Are these good jobs?
- As the chief source of data on jobs, BLS is working on ways to provide answers

BLS Green Jobs Initiative

- President's 2010 budget requests funding for BLS to develop new data on green jobs
- Goal is to provide information on:
 - ▶ Number of green jobs and trends over time
 - ▶ Industrial, occupational, and geographic distribution of these jobs
 - ▶ What these jobs pay and what education they require

What we have done so far...

- Reviewed the literature
 - ▶ To understand issues such as renewable energy, energy conservation, and greenhouse gas abatement
 - ▶ To examine definitions and measurement approaches developed by others
 - O*NET green jobs study
 - State surveys and studies
 - Studies by other private and public organizations

What we have done so far...

- Learned from State green jobs studies
 - ▶ Surveys in California, Michigan, Oregon, Washington
 - ▶ Analytical studies in Connecticut, Michigan, New York
- “Understanding the Green Economy” web site:
 - ▶ <http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/?pageid=1032>

What we have done so far...

- Consulted with stakeholders
 - ▶ To gain better understanding of green economic activities and production processes from experts
 - ▶ Federal agencies: Energy, EPA, and others
 - ▶ Industry associations

Measurement approach

- Work within existing classifications
 - ▶ North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)
 - ▶ Standard Occupational Classification (SOC)
- Leverage existing surveys, methods, and data
 - ▶ Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages - Annual Refiling Survey
 - ▶ Occupational Employment Statistics survey

What's a green job?

- Green economic activity
 - ▶ Economic activities that preserve or improve the natural environment
- Green jobs are jobs related to performing green economic activities

What's a green job?

- Broad categories of green economic activity
 - ▶ Generating energy from renewable sources
 - ▶ Increasing energy efficiency
 - ▶ Preventing, reducing, and cleaning up pollution
 - ▶ Providing environmental support services
 - ▶ Environmental regulation by government

What's a green job?

- What industries perform green economic activities?
 - ▶ Produce green products or services
 - ▶ Produce a specialized input to production of a green product or service (e.g., wind turbine blades)
 - ▶ Principle input is an identifiable green product or service (e.g., sell organic food)
 - ▶ Exclude activities where “green practices” are incidental to main activity

What's a green job?

■ Industry example: Wind Energy Production

- ▶ Develop the technology (professional, scientific, and technical services)
- ▶ Produce the turbines, blades (manufacturing)
- ▶ Sell the turbines, blades (wholesale trade)
- ▶ Build the wind farm (construction)
- ▶ Operate the wind farm (utilities)

What's a green job?

- Occupations: What workers perform green economic activities?
 - ▶ Workers who perform tasks that contribute directly to the performance of green economic activities
 - ▶ “Contribute directly” versus support activities

What's a green job?

- Occupation example: Wind Energy Production
 - ▶ Develop the technology (engineering occupations)
 - ▶ Produce the turbines, blades (production occupations)
 - ▶ Sell the turbines, blades (sales occupations)
 - ▶ Build the wind farm (construction occupations)
 - ▶ Operate the wind farm (management, engineering, and maintenance occupations)

What's next?

- Congressional action on FY2010 budget
- Finalize green jobs definition for review with stakeholders
- During FY2010, develop data collection methods and begin collecting industry data
- During FY2011, begin collecting occupational data and publishing industry data

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