

The BLS Green Jobs Initiative

(and why we are not doing green jobs projections)

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BLS green jobs initiative

- Goals are to provide information on:
 - ▶ Number of green jobs and trends over time
 - ▶ Industrial, occupational, and geographic distribution of these jobs
 - ▶ What these jobs pay

Defining green jobs

- Definition should be objective and measurable
- Definition must harmonize with standard classifications to provide comparability to other data.
 - ▶ North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)
 - ▶ Standard Occupational Classification (SOC)

Defining green jobs

- BLS background work
 - ▶ Reviewed the literature
 - No widely accepted definition
 - ▶ Examined international work
 - Statistics Canada environmental survey
 - Eurostat environmental handbook
 - ▶ Public comment and stakeholder consultation
- Final definition at www.bls.gov/green

Defining green jobs

- Two approaches to definition and measurement
 - ▶ Output approach
 - Identify establishments producing green goods and services
 - Count the associated jobs
 - ▶ Process approach
 - Identify establishments using environmentally-friendly technologies and practices
 - Count the associated jobs

BLS green jobs definition

Green jobs are either:

- A. Jobs in businesses that produce goods or provide services that benefit the environment or conserve natural resources.
- B. Jobs in which workers' duties involve making their establishment's production processes more environmentally friendly or less resource-intensive.

Categories of green goods and services

1. Energy from renewable sources
2. Energy efficient equipment, appliances, buildings and vehicles, and goods and services that improve the energy efficiency of buildings and the efficiency of energy storage and distribution
3. Pollution mitigation; greenhouse gas reduction; and recycling and reuse goods and services

Categories of green goods and services

4. Organic agriculture; sustainable forestry; and soil, water and wildlife conservation
5. Governmental and regulatory administration; and education, training, and advocacy goods and services

Types of green technologies and practices

1. Generating energy from renewable sources for use within the establishment
2. Improving energy efficiency
3. Reducing or removing pollution or greenhouse gases, and recycling or reusing waste materials or wastewater
4. Conserving natural resources

About the BLS green jobs definition

- Based on products or services produced, or duties performed
- Does not consider other job aspects
 - ▶ Not considering wages, union membership, worker safety, benefits, career ladders, or similar factors
 - ▶ Users can apply other data

About the BLS green jobs definition

- BLS definition not based on whether workers in green jobs need different skills than those in non-green jobs
- O*NET addresses the skills issue
 - ▶ Increased demand occupations
 - ▶ Enhanced skills occupations
 - ▶ New and emerging occupations
 - ▶ See <http://www.onetcenter.org/green.html>

Identifying green goods and services

- Generally designated as “green” only goods and services that directly benefit the environment
 - ▶ Does not automatically include inputs or distribution of outputs, but evaluates these for direct environmental benefit
- Identified 333 detailed NAICS industries where green goods and services are classified. See www.bls.gov/green

Measuring green goods and services jobs

- Green Goods and Services (GGS) survey
 - ▶ Sample establishments in industries where green goods and services are classified
 - ▶ Present to respondents a description of green products or services classified in their industry
 - ▶ Request share of revenue accounted for by sale of green goods and services
 - ▶ Use share of revenue as proxy for share of employment

Measuring green goods and services jobs

- Green Goods and Services (GGS) survey
 - ▶ Survey instrument has been developed and field tested
 - ▶ Sample design is complete
 - ▶ Currently in OMB clearance process
 - ▶ Survey collection during FY2011
 - ▶ First results published in FY2012
 - ▶ Plan to repeat data collection annually

Measuring green goods and services jobs

- Obtain occupational staffing patterns and wages from establishments in the GGS survey
 - ▶ Use existing Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey
 - ▶ Maximize overlap of GGS and regular OES samples
 - ▶ Expand OES sample as needed
 - ▶ Collection starting spring 2011
 - ▶ First results published in 2012

Measuring green technologies and practices jobs

- Green Technologies and Practices (GTP) survey
 - ▶ Does the establishment use green technologies or practices?
 - ▶ If yes, does it employ any workers whose duties relate to these technologies or practices?
 - ▶ If yes, collect information on number of workers and their wages, by occupation

Measuring green technologies and practices jobs

- Businesses in any industry may use green technologies and practices
 - ▶ Produce energy from renewable sources for use within the establishment
 - Example: retail store generates solar power
 - ▶ Use of practices and technologies that benefit the environment or conserve natural resources
 - Example: redesigning product packaging to reduce use of plastics

Measuring green technologies and practices jobs

- Green Technologies and Practices (GTP) survey
 - ▶ Cognitive interviews completed
 - ▶ Initial survey instruments developed
 - ▶ Field testing underway
 - ▶ OMB clearance underway
 - ▶ Data collection during FY2011
 - ▶ Results published in FY2012

Projecting green jobs?

- BLS has no plans to project green jobs
- “Green” generally does not include entire industries or occupations, but some share of the jobs
- The shares are not yet known
 - ▶ First data points in 2012
 - ▶ Time series will take several years
- Method for projecting the shares?

Green career information

- BLS producing green career information
 - ▶ Wind energy
 - ▶ Solar energy (forthcoming)
 - ▶ Green construction (forthcoming)
- For these and information about the BLS green jobs initiative, see www.bls.gov/green

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