

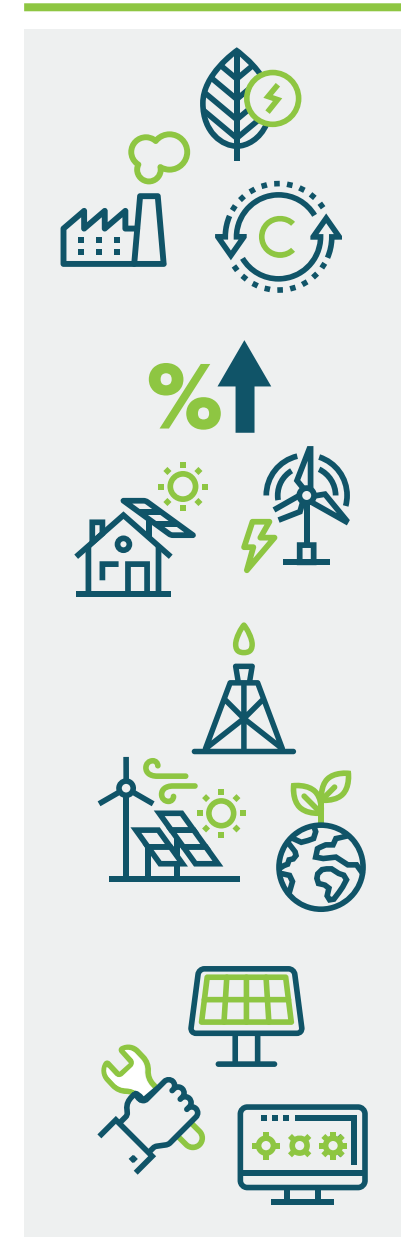
THE GREEN ECONOMY JOB MARKET STATUS REPORT

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One of the major selling points for investment in green infrastructure is the jobs created through building renewable energy facilities and remediating environmental damage. To track the growth of these “green jobs” the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) received funding in the first years of the Obama administration to collect data on these jobs. The BLS identified 325 Green Goods and Services industries—with definitions so loose they included everything from wind farm construction to logging and steel mills—and hundreds of jobs in which at least some of the work promoted sustainable goals.

That program was short-lived (its funding was eliminated in 2013), but it did provide a baseline for some jobs within these industries. The BLS selected eight environmentally oriented occupations and projected the number of new jobs that would be added between 2016 and 2026, along with their overall employment levels and median wage. Below, we have updated those categories with the most recent projections that go out to 2032, and added eight additional jobs that will be critically important for transitioning to a zero-carbon-emissions economy.



Let’s examine the top jobs in the green economy and what skills are needed to enter the future green workforce.

SELECTED GREEN ECONOMY JOBS, EMPLOYMENT LEVELS

2022 AND 2032 (PROJECTED)

Occupation Title	Employment 2022	Employment 2032	Employment Change, 2022-2032
Mechanical engineers	286,100	314,700	28,500
Civil engineers	326,300	342,500	16,200
Solar photovoltaic installers	29,400	35,900	6,600
Wind turbine service technicians	11,200	16,200	5,000
Environmental scientists and specialists, including health	80,500	85,300	4,900
Electrical power-line installers and repairers	122,400	125,800	3,500
Environmental engineers	47,300	50,200	2,900
Environmental science and protection technicians	35,000	37,100	2,000
Conservation scientists	24,700	25,700	1,000
Hazardous materials removal workers	48,700	49,100	400
Foresters	11,300	11,600	300
Environmental engineering technicians	13,900	14,100	200
Nuclear engineers	13,800	13,900	100
Nuclear power reactor operators	5,500	5,300	-200
Electrical and electronics repairers, powerhouse, substation, and relay	26,100	25,400	-700
Forest and conservation workers	11,300	10,300	-1,000

SELECTED GREEN ECONOMY JOBS, ANNUAL JOB OPENINGS, MEDIA WAGE, AND EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENT

Occupation Title	Annual Occupational Openings, 2022-2032	Median Annual Wage 2022	Typical Entry-Level Education
Nuclear engineers	800	\$122,480	Bachelor’s degree
Nuclear power reactor operators	400	\$115,870	High school
Environmental engineers	3,400	\$96,530	Bachelor’s degree
Mechanical engineers	19,200	\$96,310	Bachelor’s degree
Electrical and electronics repairers, powerhouse, substation, and relay	2,100	\$93,720	Postsecondary
Civil engineers	21,200	\$89,940	Bachelor’s degree
Electrical power-line installers and repairers	9,700	\$82,340	High school
Environmental scientists and specialists	6,900	\$76,480	Bachelor’s degree
Conservation scientists	2,100	\$64,460	Bachelor’s degree
Foresters	900	\$64,220	Bachelor’s degree
Wind turbine service technicians	1,800	\$57,320	Postsecondary
Environmental engineering technicians	1,300	\$50,980	Associate’s degree
Environmental science and protection technicians, including health	3,800	\$48,380	Associate’s degree
Hazardous materials removal workers	5,200	\$46,690	High school
Solar photovoltaic installers	3,500	\$45,230	High school
Forest and conservation workers	1,800	\$32,270	High school

Data: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics