

THE NEW JOB MARKET IN THE GREEN ECONOMY

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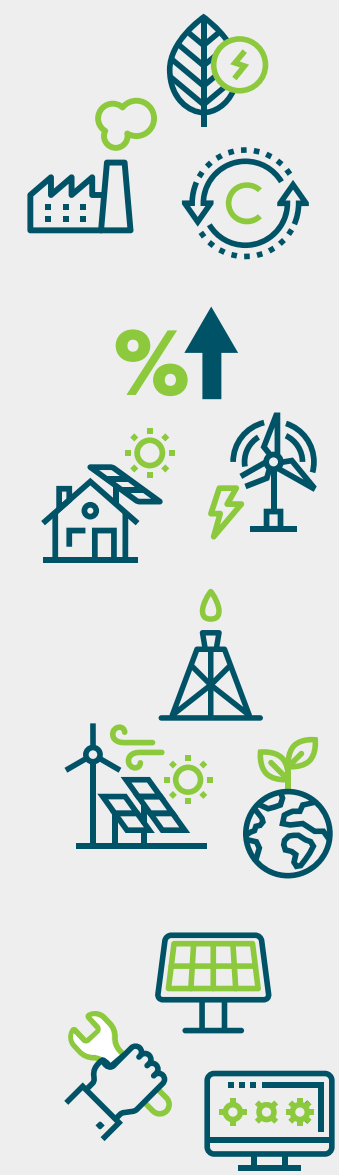


The future of environmentalism focuses on curbing pollution, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, economizing on fossil fuels, and creating new renewable sources. These activities are being labeled the “green economy” and will lead to new lines of work. The potential job market within the green economy will be a mix of rising analytical forward jobs and traditional mechanical skill-driven jobs.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projects significant job growth in occupations related to the green economy. By 2026, the BLS predicts that solar photovoltaic installers and wind turbine technicians will be among the highest in employment growth, 105 percent and 96 percent increase, respectively.

Workers within the green economy will focus on environmental work via two distinct methods. The first will be those that contribute to energy generation. These workers will install and manage solar, wind, natural gas, and nuclear energy systems. The second focus is on environmental conservation—executing programs that will clean up and curb pollution.

According to the Pew Research Center, close to 200 occupations are classified as “green occupations.” Among these jobs, 71 are new and emerging, such as biofuel production managers or solar energy system engineers. For these jobs, skills in science and computer programming are 34 percent more important when compared with older occupations. The rest of the green economy job field will require a strong focus on repair skills, equipment maintenance, operations, and systems control.



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

NEW GREEN ECONOMY JOBS

PROJECTED 2016–26

Occupation	Numeric change, projected 2016–26
Solar photovoltaic installers	11,800
Environmental scientists and specialists, including health	9,900
Hazardous materials removal workers	7,900
Wind turbine service technicians	5,600
Environmental engineers	4,500
Environmental science and protection technicians, including health	4,200
Environmental engineering technicians	2,200
Conservation scientists	1,400

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Office of Occupational Statistics and Employment Projections

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH IN SELECTED GREEN OCCUPATIONS

PROJECTED 2016–26

Occupation	Median annual wage, 2017	Employment, 2016	Employment, projected 2026
Environmental engineers	\$86,800	53,800	58,300
Environmental scientists and specialists, including health	\$69,400	89,500	99,400
Conservation scientists	\$61,480	22,300	23,700
Wind turbine service technicians	\$53,880	5,600	11,300
Environmental engineering technicians	\$50,230	17,000	19,100
Environmental science and protection technicians, including health	\$45,490	34,600	38,800
Hazardous materials removal workers	\$41,400	46,200	54,100
Solar photovoltaic installers	\$39,490	11,300	23,100

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Office of Occupational Statistics and Employment Projections

IMPORTANT SELECT SKILLS FOR GREEN ECONOMY JOBS VS. TRADITIONAL JOBS

ON A SCALE FROM 1 (NOT IMPORTANT) TO 5 (EXTREMELY IMPORTANT)

Skills	Traditional Jobs	Green Economy Jobs
Systems analysis	2.61	3.27
Mathematics	2.48	3.18
Systems evaluation	2.54	3.17
Operation and control	2.23	2.81
Science	1.89	2.54
Troubleshooting	2.05	2.52
Equipment maintenance	1.73	2.19
Repairing	1.70	2.15
Equipment selection	1.71	2.09
Programming	1.52	2.06

Source: Pew Research Center