



International
Labour
Organization

Green Jobs: The Facts

Green Jobs – Good Jobs: A Dual Challenge

The emergence of Green Jobs has become emblematic of the world's determination to develop a more sustainable global economy and society that preserves the environment for present and future generations and is more equitable and inclusive of all people and countries. The ILO's Constituents in Bangladesh – the government, worker and employer organizations – have responded enthusiastically to this opportunity to equate green jobs to productive and sustainable decent work that will benefit all. The Australian Government – ILO Partnership Agreement (2010 – 2015), in its supporting role, has identified the Green Jobs in Asia programme as a positive step toward such a just transition as part of the broader goal of improving the lives of vulnerable people in Bangladesh – and across Asia and the Pacific.

In the medium to long term, projected climate change will lead to serious disruption of economic and social activity in many sectors on all continents.

Climate change in itself, adaptation to it and efforts to arrest it by reducing emissions have far-reaching implications for economic and social development, for production and consumption patterns and thus for employment, incomes and poverty reduction. These implications harbor both major risks and opportunities for working people in all countries.

Through their jointly-commissioned research, the ILO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have determined that growing numbers of green jobs will be created as the move toward a low-carbon and more sustainable economy gathers momentum. Opportunities exist in Bangladesh and every other country for the creation of more green jobs that are quality jobs which contribute to an environmentally friendly, low carbon economy. From a broad conceptual perspective, employment will be affected in at least four ways as national economies move towards greater sustainability:

- Additional jobs will be created in the manufacturing of pollution-control devices added to existing production equipment.
- Some employment will be substituted – as in shifting from fossil fuels to renewable, or from truck manufacturing to rail car, or from land filling and waste incineration to recycling.
- Certain jobs may be eliminated without direct replacement – as excess packaging materials are discouraged or banned outright and their production winds down.

- Many existing vocations (such as plumbers, electricians, metal workers, and construction workers) will simply be transformed and redefined as day-to-day skill sets, work methods and profiles are greened.

What are Green Jobs?

Generally speaking, Green Jobs can be defined as employment created in various sectors which reduces the environmental impact generally associated with that sector or industry and ultimately brings it down to sustainable levels. Specifically these are ‘decent’ jobs that help to reduce consumption of energy and raw materials, de-carbonize the economy, protect and restore ecosystem services like clean water, flood protection and biodiversity and minimize the production of waste and pollution

Some Examples of Green Jobs

- Building retrofit services professional
- Mangrove planter acting in the context of climate adaptation programs
- Solar energy system technician
- Geothermal exploration specialist
- Organic farmer
- Waste recycler with decent working conditions in organized cooperatives
- Local guide in eco-tourism
- Worker in organic tea plantations
- Worker in public infrastructure development programs in coastal areas
- Wetlands restoration worker
- Energy auditors in the shrimp processing industry

Global facts to support the business case for Green Jobs:

- The global market for environmental products and services is projected to double from US\$ 1,370 billion per year at present to US\$ 2,740 billion by 2020. Half of this market is in energy efficiency and the balance in sustainable transport, water supply, sanitation and waste management
- Millions of green jobs already exist in industrialized countries, emerging economies and developing countries i.e. in energy supply such as renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency – particularly in buildings and construction, transportation, basic industries and recycling, agriculture, forests.
- More than two million people have, in recent years, found new jobs in the renewable energy sector alone, and the potential for job growth is huge. By 2030, employment in wind energy production could climb to more than two million while solar power could account for more than six million jobs worldwide.
- In the United States, clean technologies are already the third largest sector for joint venture capital (after information and biotechnology) while green venture capital in China more than doubled to 19 percent of total investment in recent years.
- Renewable energy generates more jobs than employment in fossil fuels. By 2030, projected investments of US\$ 630 billion world translate into at least 20 million additional jobs in the renewable energy sector. In agriculture, 12 million people could be employed in biomass for energy and related industries.

- A worldwide transition to energy-efficient buildings would create millions of jobs as well as ‘green’ existing employment for many of the estimated 111 million people already working in the construction sector.
- Investments in improved energy efficiency in buildings could generate an additional 2.3 million green jobs in Europe and the United States alone, with a much higher potential in developing countries.

Green Jobs in Bangladesh

First phase (2008 -2010)

The ILO Green Jobs initiative was piloted in Bangladesh from 2008 to 2010 as a part of the regional programme of the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, based in Bangkok. During the first phase, several key activities and outputs were realized.

- A series of joint advocacy and awareness workshops were successfully completed at national and regional levels for ILO constituents and partners. Key partners were: Ministry of Labour and Employment; Bangladesh Employers Federation (BEF); National Coordination Committee on Workers Education (NCCWE) i.e. trade unions; and Occupational Safety, Health and Environment (OSHE) Foundation.
- Knowledge products that were generated in the first phase included assessments and sectoral studies: Agriculture, Construction, Renewable Energy and Waste Management; feasibility study on solar home systems (SHS); skills for green jobs; and a macro study on linking environment, economy and labour markets: - estimation of green jobs in Bangladesh.
- Green jobs were created through successful public-private partnerships between ILO, Grameen Shakti and BMET, a private sector training provider. A total of 250 women entrepreneurs were trained and are now working as entrepreneurs. A total of 88 solar technicians were successfully trained and the majority of them were absorbed by Grameen Shakti in their unit offices and technology centers. About 440 persons received training on bio-slurry and are now using bio-slurry in their crop fields and ponds.

New phase (2011-12)

Following the first phase, the ILO, through its Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, oversees the ‘Green Jobs in Asia’ programme which is supported by the Australian government under the Australian Government – ILO Partnership Agreement (2010 – 2015). The Bangladesh component opened in March 2011 and runs until June 2012.

The objectives of the new project are:

- To deepen our ILO constituents’ understanding and commitment for the promotion of Green Jobs opportunities and just transition for workers and employers towards a low carbon, climate resilient, environmental friendly development in Bangladesh.
- To promote gender sensitive green jobs opportunities and a just transition for workers and employers towards a low-carbon, climate resilient, environmentally friendly development

Key partners of the project include the Ministry of Labour and Employment and other government departments, Bangladesh Employers Federation (BEF), National Coordination Committee for Workers Education (NCCWE), Grameen Shakti, Waste Concern, Occupational Safety, Health and Environment (OSHE) Foundation, private sector and local communities.

The project will:

- Facilitate Constituents' involvement in the national level discussion and policy development related to green jobs, climate change through formation of tripartite task force.
- Implement joint initiatives with constituents for advocacy and awareness raising on green jobs and green job related aspects.
- Enhance understanding of the constituents through training on climate change, green jobs and environmentally sustainable development.
- Demonstrate green skills expansion through public-private partnerships in the renewable energy sectors and mainstream green skills into national training providers.
- Prepare an inventory on green jobs in Bangladesh.
- Promote jobs in the rural areas for the unemployed youth as solar home technicians through providing skills training and employer linkages which will contribute to poverty reduction.

Green Jobs Initiatives

The Green Jobs Initiatives is a partnership established in 2007 between the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and International Trade Union Confederation. The International Organization of Employers joined in 2008.

The objective was to mobilize governments, employers and workers to engage in dialogue on coherent policies and effective programmes leading to a green economy with green jobs.

The ILO's Green Jobs in Asia project is active in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines and Sri Lanka

For further information, please contact:

T.I.M. Nurunnabi Khan, Sr. Programme Officer
Farida Shahanaz, National Programme Coordinator
ILO Country Office for Bangladesh
House 12, Road 12 (New)
Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka -1209
Phone: (880 2) 8114705/9112907/9112876
Email:DHAKA@ilo.org
Web: www.ilo.org/Bangladesh