

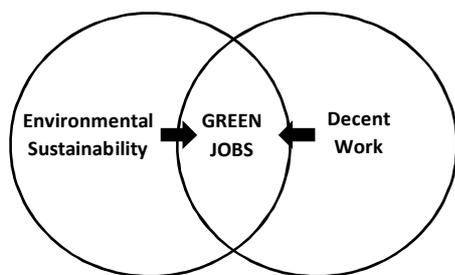
The Green Jobs Programme for Asia and the Pacific

Working together to achieve a low-carbon, climate resilient, environmentally friendly economy that is fair for all

What are Green Jobs?

The ILO and UNEP have defined green jobs as direct employment in economic activities and sectors that reduce their negative environmental impact, ultimately to sustainable levels. This includes jobs that help to protect ecosystems and biodiversity; reduce the consumption of energy, materials and water (by increasing efficiency); de-carbonize the economy; and minimize or avoid waste and pollution generation.

Green jobs must also be “decent” jobs, i.e. jobs which offer adequate wages, safe working conditions, job security, reasonable career prospects, and workers’ rights. Decent work helps us build stronger, fairer, more peaceful societies that create the right conditions for economic growth and expand opportunities for productive jobs and enterprise development.



Why and how does ILO work in this area?

Green jobs is a direct response to two major challenges of the 21st century: averting dangerous climate change and environmental degradation, and the need to deliver socially responsible development through decent work. Creating green jobs and adapting existing occupations are critical for promoting the transition to a low-carbon, climate resilient, environmentally friendly economy that is fair to all.

“The transition to a lower carbon economy will take place in enterprises and workplaces all over the world and create opportunities for green jobs from the reorientation of consumption, production and employment patterns.”

ILO Director-General Juan Somavia

“We have to ensure greater opportunities and decent jobs so that people can enjoy lives of dignity and fulfillment.”

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

The ILO works to engage governments, employers and workers in dialogue on coherent policies and effective programmes that will lead to decent work for all in a greener economy.

Three reasons for promoting green jobs:

- Green jobs and green business opportunities exist in every county and offer productive and decent work opportunities throughout the economy;
- Green jobs in industry can help reduce energy costs, improve working conditions and enhance productivity;
- Green jobs are necessary to adapt to climate change and preserve livelihoods.



Some examples of green jobs:

- Building retrofit services
- Mangrove planters working in coastal restoration and management programmes
- Solar energy, biogas and micro-hydro technicians
- Forestry workers producing certified wood products
- Certified organic farmers
- Municipal waste recyclers organized in cooperatives
- Local eco-tourism guides
- Mechanics trained to work on cars and buses propelled by compressed natural gas
- Wetlands restoration workers
- Energy auditors

How Green jobs contribute to economic growth.

Governments are increasingly placing green jobs at the centre of their policy agendas. This is reflected in the development of national road maps for green jobs, job-centred green policies, and holistic “green skills” development strategies.

It is expected that green jobs and other measures will transform the economies and labour markets in various ways. Three of the most probable are:

- The expansion of sectors such as renewable energy, recycling, mass transportation and reforestation;
- The introduction of greener practices in sectors such as manufacturing and construction;
- The decline of some sectors and the need of others for long-term support to adapt.



The Green Jobs Programme for Asia and the Pacific

The Green Jobs Programme for Asia and the Pacific.

The Green Jobs Programme for Asia and the Pacific currently provides country-level support to Bangladesh, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The objectives are to:

- Enhance the capacity of ILO constituents to take part in dialogue on green jobs at local, regional and national levels by giving them access to quality data and information;
- Influencing national policies and so contribute to an inclusive growth model that is job-centred, environmentally sustainable, and promotes decent work;
- Promote green jobs' opportunities by supporting demonstration activities and national programmes.

Projects and activities in the region include:

- *Community of Practice on Green Jobs for Asia and the Pacific* (ILO/ Korea Partnership Programme), as an effective way to share knowledge, deepen understanding and encourage ILO partners and others to discuss ideas relating to green jobs.
- *Greener Business Asia*, 2010-2012 (ILO/Japan Bilateral Programme) proposes a strategy to support responsible, environmentally-friendly business practices in selected industries (the automotive sector in the Philippines and the tourism and hotel business in Thailand).
- *The Green Jobs in Asia Project*, 2010-2012 (Australian Government-ILO Partnership Agreement) works to develop the capacity of ILO constituents to engage in dialogue on green jobs. Strategies include increased access to information and training, developing green jobs creation models in specific sectors and pilot testing them with key partners.
- *Green Business Options in China* is an entrepreneurship-centred training programme that helps young entrepreneurs acquire the skills to develop feasible green business ideas.
- *Occupational Safety and Health in Fiji's waste management sector* (in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency) promotes practical collaboration between waste collectors and the community, to establish safe and efficient waste collection systems.



Resources:

ILO Asia and the Pacific – Programmes and Projects

(<http://www.ilo.org/asia/whatwedo/projects/lang--en/index.htm>)

ILO Community of Practice on Green Jobs

(<http://greenjobs-ap.ilobkk.or.th/>)

Green Jobs Background Brief No. 1 - August 2011

(http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_162144.pdf)

Promoting Decent Work in a Green Economy

(http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed_emp/@emp_ent/documents/publication/wcms_152065.pdf)

Green Jobs: Towards decent work in a sustainable, low-carbon world

(http://www.unep.org/labour_environment/PDFs/Greenjobs/UNEP-Green-Jobs-Report.pdf)

Skills for Green Jobs: A Global View

(http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---ifp_skills/documents/publication/wcms_156220.pdf)

Estimating Green Jobs in Bangladesh

(http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/documents/publication/wcms_159433.pdf)

Introduction to Policies and Programmes for Green Jobs.

ILO ROAP, October 2010

(http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_166083.pdf)

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