



International
Labour
Organization



**A QUICK
GLANCE**

SDG NOTE



GREEN JOBS

In 2015 world leaders adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development builds on progress achieved under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and provides a roadmap for coordinated global action to tackle the formidable challenges facing humanity, including in the world of work. With the 2030 Agenda the global community has recognized the importance of the ILO's Decent Work Agenda in making inclusive sustainable development a reality.

"With the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development we have a once-in-a-generation chance to make a change and improve the lives of billions. The Agenda places Decent Work for all at the heart of policies for sustainable and inclusive growth and development. Through its work to promote decent jobs and social justice for all, the ILO's mandate cuts across all of the Sustainable Development Goals. We can realize the vision of sustainable development of this transformative agenda by 2030 if we all come together in a global partnership of governments, business and trade unions, as well as multilateral organizations, civil society and ordinary people. Each and every one of us has a role to play, to ensure no one is left behind."

ILO Director-General Guy Ryder



See [Decent Work and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)

Goal: Realizing a just transition to environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own. Sustainable development is only possible with the active engagement of the world of work. Governments, employers and workers can be agents of change, able to develop new ways of working that safeguard the environment for present and future generations, eradicate poverty and promote social justice by fostering sustainable enterprises and creating decent work for all.

Greening and "climate-proofing" the economy will involve large-scale investments in new technologies, equipment, buildings and infrastructure and have significant impacts on the world of work. Major opportunities will arise for job creation and skills development, improvements in job quality and incomes, as well as advances in equity and social inclusion.

These benefits are not automatic. They require the right policies. These policies need to recognize the inter-relationship between environmental sustainability and decent work. If properly managed and adopted by consensus, a just transition to low-carbon, environmentally and socially sustainable economies can become a strong driver of job creation, job upgrading, social justice and poverty eradication.





Source: ILO/UNEP/ITUC/IOE 2012 report "Working towards sustainable development"

? WHAT IS A GREEN JOB?

Green jobs are decent jobs that produce goods, provide services or make production processes more energy and resource efficient and less polluting. Green jobs exist and can be created in traditional sectors, such as manufacturing and construction or in new sectors, such as renewable energy and energy efficiency.

? WHAT IS A "JUST TRANSITION"?

A just transition creates decent work opportunities for all and ensures that social protection exists where needed. It also includes mechanisms for social dialogue from the private sector and workers' unions throughout policymaking processes at all levels.

Green jobs across the SDGs

Redesigning the labour market environment offers opportunities to address pre-existing employment challenges and create decent work opportunities for all—including women, youth and people who live in rural areas. Governments can support enterprises by combining policy instruments such as market-based instruments, regulations, public investment, procurement policies and awareness raising. At the same time, they can create an enabling environment that promotes the adoption of green workplace practices, investments in new green products and services, as well as job creation.



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