

“Green” Issues and Initiatives



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Introduction

- Popular interest in the Green Economy
 - Revolution or transformation?

- The Interstate Green Consortium
 - Its beginnings and current initiatives

- Reports and work of other states
 - What have other states found?



Quotes

“A rough estimate is that 45 new nuclear power plants will create roughly 700,000 jobs – jobs in construction, engineering, operation and maintenance.”

John McCain

<http://www.johnmccain.com/Issues/JobsforAmerica/energy.htm>



Quotes

“All together these investments will help the private sector create 5 million new green jobs, good jobs that cannot be outsourced.”

Barack Obama

http://www.barackobama.com/pdf/factsheet_energy_speech_080308.pdf



Quotes

“Under an ‘Advanced Renewable Strategy,’ there could be 1.7 million net jobs by 2010 and 2.5 million by 2020.”

United Nations Environment Programme on Europe’s Potential

http://www.unep.org/PDF/UNEPGreenJobs_report08.pdf



Revolution or Transformation?

- Will the greening of the economy revolutionize the labor market?
 - “Green” is ubiquitous
 - Installation and construction jobs cannot be outsourced
- Most likely a transformation of how things are done
 - Training seminars on installation
 - Seminars on retrofitting



Interstate Green Consortium

- Purpose
 - Identify a method to quantify Green Jobs and Industries
 - Method should be useable by all states

- Began monthly conference calls on April 7, 2008



Interstate Green Consortium

- Began with 8 states
 - California; Colorado; Connecticut; Florida; Maine; Michigan; Pennsylvania; Washington

- As of October, a number of states and organizations have been added
 - BLS; ETA; Illinois; Missouri; New York; Oregon; Tennessee



Interstate Green Consortium

- Biggest challenge for group
 - Defining “Green” jobs
 - “Green,” like “High-tech,” is all-encompassing
 - Some jobs are green today and not tomorrow
 - Since green is ubiquitous, how broad of a definition?
 - Just the core industries or include the periphery?



Interstate Green Consortium

- Data presents another challenge
 - Current classification codes do not delineate green and non-green employment
 - Current estimates are either too low or too high
 - Without appropriate data, will never have reliable estimates



Interstate Green Consortium

- Biggest challenges become assets
 - Without clear definitions or data, group has undertaken extensive research efforts
 - Literature review underway with participants from many states reading and summarizing
 - From literature, examining industrial, occupational, and qualitative definitions of green jobs



Interstate Green Consortium

- Additional efforts
 - Gathering Green Jobs state initiatives
 - Collecting enacted and proposed legislation from around the country
 - All of this information and links to literature can be found at California's Employment Development Department

<http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/?pageid=1032>



Work from around the country

- Florida
- Illinois
- Oregon
- Texas
- Washington



Florida

- State released a poster providing examples of jobs in a green economy

- Some examples:
 - Solar Power
 - Construction equipment operators
 - Electricians
 - Biofuels
 - Chemists
 - Farm product purchasers



Florida

- Some examples:

- Wind Power

- Environmental engineers
 - Machinists

- Transportation

- Civil engineers
 - Bus drivers

- Energy Efficiency/Building Retrofitting

- Boilermakers
 - Carpenters



Illinois

- Chicagoland Green Collar Jobs Initiative
 - Founded in September 2007
 - Consortium of labor groups, businesses, community organizers, community colleges, and others
 - Purpose to organize stakeholders around opportunities and resources around green collar jobs
- Initiated Green Business Survey



Oregon

Report Titled “Oregon’s Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Workforce”

- Issues Raised in report
 - Expanding energy efficiency and renewable energy should provide jobs
 - Which jobs would be supported?
 - What skills are needed?
- Recognizes that many jobs are not unique to the energy efficient/renewable energy sector



Oregon

- Industry types and employment
 - Organic agriculture and biomass production
 - Employment 34,862
 - Energy efficient building, construction, and retrofit industries
 - Employment 24,971
 - Renewable electric power industry
 - Employment 168



Oregon

- Industry types and employment
 - Energy efficient and advanced drive train vehicle industry
 - Employment 137
 - Biofuels
 - Employment 82
 - Deconstruction and material use
 - Employment 1,782
 - Energy assessment industry serving the residential, commercial or industrial sectors
 - Employment 1,245



Texas

Report Titled “Green Collar Workers and Other Mythical Creatures”

- Report discusses the difficulties in defining green jobs
 - As of now, there is no way to quantify green employment
 - Green is evolutionary, and there is no benchmark that makes one company green and another company traditional
 - Some green jobs do not necessarily need new skills while others may need to develop new abilities



Texas

- There is ambiguity in defining green jobs.
- The report mentions some common approaches
 - Industry approach
 - Firm-based approach
 - Establishment-level approach
 - Occupational approach
 - Task, Project, or Location-based approach



Texas

- Offers an outcome based approach
 - Since green is evolutionary, projects quantifying green employment should measure the following:
 - Net energy savings
 - Improve national security or address revenue leakage
 - Net reduction in carbon footprint
 - Knowledge, skills, and abilities needed for position



Washington

- State passed legislation titled Climate Change Framework/Green-Collar Jobs Act, HB 2815
- Part of legislation requires conducting a survey of businesses to estimate current number of green jobs



Washington

- Must define green economy and jobs
 - Green Economy - rooted in the development and use of products and services that promote environmental protection, energy independence, and economic development
 - Green Jobs - jobs in the primary industries of a green economy that promote environmental protection and energy independence



Washington

- Survey launched in July
- Results available in December
- Other states planning surveys:
 - Florida, Michigan, California, and Oregon



Conclusions

- Revolution or Transformation?
 - Greening of economy will be more of a transformation of current processes rather than a revolution within the labor market
 - New jobs will be created.
 - The majority of jobs will undergo changes in the way they conduct their operations.



Conclusions

- Interstate Green Consortium
 - Currently a group of 15 states/organizations are working together to obtain estimates of green jobs.
 - Existing data makes quantitative analysis difficult.
 - Until industry and occupation classifications undergo a change to accommodate “greening,” it will be difficult to enact effective policies.
- States are taking individual steps to quantify and identify green jobs and industries.