



Green Jobs Defined We all hear the term, but what is it exactly?

Blue collar job, white collar job – we know the differentiation of those two terms, but now we have a third color coming into play. Green collar jobs are the new rage; just like 40 is the new 30. But what are they?

A green job is any job in an organization that provides a product or service that allows consumers to either consume less, through lower prices, greater efficiency, and better utilization of resources; all of which reduce the environmental impact on the planet.

One report by the RAND Corporation and University of Tennessee found that if 25% of all American energy were produced from renewable sources by 2025, we would generate at least 5 million new green jobs. Phil Angelides, a venture capitalist and the 2006 Democratic candidate for governor of California, defines a green job: "It has to pay decent wages and benefits that can support a family. It has to be part of a real career path, with upward mobility. And it needs to reduce waste and pollution and benefit the environment."

Initially, when we think of green jobs, we think about solar energy or possibly harnessing wind energy. Of course, those are two major components of the whole greening of the world. Today there is a big push from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to increase the jobs in industries such as energy, utilities, construction, and manufacturing with a focus toward energy efficiency and more environmentally-friendly practices.

Green collar jobs are anything that helps put America on the path to a cleaner, more energy efficient future. Even traditional, blue-collar manufacturing jobs qualify provided what you're making is more or less green. i.e. Hybrid car manufacturing – green-collar; traditional SUV manufacturing – NOT.

Let's review some of the potential jobs you could have if you chose a green-collar career path:

- Public transit, green building, energy efficiency
- Green collar workers include professionals such as:
 - conservation movement workers,
 - environmental consultants,
 - environmental or biological systems engineers,
 - green building architects,
 - holistic passive solar building designers,
 - solar energy and wind energy engineers and installers,
 - nuclear engineers,
 - green vehicle engineers,
 - "green business" owners,
 - environmental lawyers,
 - ecology educators, and
 - eco-technology workers,
- Sales staff working with the professionals listed above services or products.
- Organic farmers
- Vocational or trade-level workers:
 - electricians who install solar panels,
 - plumbers who install solar water heaters,
 - construction workers who build energy-efficient green buildings and wind power farms,
 - construction workers who weatherize buildings to make them more energy efficient, or
 - workers involved in clean, renewable, sustainable future energy development.

Additionally, other jobs may include:

- Energy auditors,
- Environmental inspectors, assessors or remediation
- Biofuel industry
- Turbine maintenance and erection
- Photovoltaics
- Geothermal energy installation
- LEED Certifications – Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design

Even restaurants can get into the “green” game and not just with their lettuce. Restaurateurs are using environmentally friendly products and services, going green with their operational practices and even greening up their public relations and marketing.

If you are finding out more about the “green collar” job market, there are a number of websites you can research. They include: www.greenjobs.com & www.greenjobs.net, www.greenjobsearch.org, and www.greencollarblog.com that lists a number of green job boards along with articles and posts related to the green industry.

How we can help – If you are interested in having your career path assessed, speak with the Employment and Training Representatives at [Kane County Department of Employment and Education](http://www.kcdee.org). They are able to help you assess your needs and point you in the right direction to finding new employment, potentially in a “green-collar” job. They can help you find all of the job search resources that will help you find a new job and/or career.

Four Offices to serve you:

Elgin – 30 DuPage Court	847-888-7900 x 230
N. Aurora – 2 Smoketree Plaza	630-844-6640 x 203
DeKalb – 1701 E. Lincoln Hwy.	815-756-4893 x 240
Yorkville – 811 W. John St.	630-553-8304

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