

Digest of Green Reports and Studies

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| Title | Greener Skills: How Credentials Create Value in the Clean Energy Economy |
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| Publication Type | Report – Literature Research |
| Publication Date | 2010 |
| # of Pages | 37 pp. |
| URL | http://www.cows.org/pdf/rp-greenerkills.pdf |
| Summary | According to the authors, “This paper assesses the state of “green” training (a tumult of often inconsistent credentials and competencies across industries, employers, and providers); offers our normative argument for doing better; and provides specific policy suggestions on implementing a national credentialing system and ensuring equitable access to it.” In conclusion, “The current green moment offers a chance to broker a new compact. The country’s renewed enthusiasm for workforce development, inspired by a compelling vision of the clean energy economy and its greener jobs, should be channeled into realizing the actual promise of equal opportunity and family-supporting employment, and reforming the training systems that undergird it.” |
| Key Findings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “All credentials are not created equal as of right now. Credentials ideally should be: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Meaningful to the labor market</u>: due to the value to employers. 2. <u>Transparent</u>: so workers know what it takes to earn the degree or education 3. <u>Embedded in a pathway</u>: connected to a job or a following training school. 4. <u>Standardized</u>: reflects common measures of competence. 5. <u>Portable</u>: not limited to a particular region, employer, or institution; more generalizable.” • “Certifications typically serve advanced professionals.” • “Clean energy credentials defy organizations.” • “National standards can transcend the tangle of local workforce systems.” • “Skills development needs to be rationalized at all levels.” • “Standardization can start locally.” • “Assessment matters.” <p>Additional information may be found on pages 8 through 10.</p> |
| Recommendations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Create more influence for green to the broader population. Secure national agreement on skill standards and get serious about building a system that will stably create and support them.” • “Federal Action: Support high-quality national standards that already exist in other states, and use public investments to encourage local connections to them.” • “State Action: Drive validation through state or regional skill standards processes. • “Systems Action: Focus on the coordinating and strategizing the greening of existing credentials, rather than rush to create myriad new green jobs programs.” • “Full Court Press: Build more programs for training, credentials, and jobs for the people who need it most.” |
| Definition of “Green” | N/A |
| Methodology | Literature Research |
| Data Sources Cited | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wendy L. Parker, et al., “Costs and Benefits of Practitioner Certification or Licensure for the Solar Industry.” • Jane M. Weissman, “Defining the Workforce Development Framework & Labor Market Needs for the Renewable Energy Industries.” • The White House Middle Class Task Force & The Council on Environmental Quality, Recovery Through Retrofit. <p>Additional data sources cited are found throughout the report.</p> |
| Report Geography | United States |
| Green Occupations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternate Energy Installer |

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| Cited | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Architects • Carbon Reduction Manager • Carpenters • Electricians • Energy Manager • HVAC Efficiency Analyst • PV Installer • Solar Thermal Installer • Sustainable Development Professional <p>Additional occupations can be found throughout the report.</p> |
| Green Industries Cited | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction • Professional Services • Utility |
| Keywords | AFL-CIO; American National Standards Institute; Association of Energy Practitioners; Building Operators Certification; Building Performance Institute; Electronics Technicians Association; Green Building Certification Institute; Institute for Sustainable Power Quality; Interstate Renewable Energy Council; Laborers International Union of North America; Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design; North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners; North American Technician Excellence; Residential Energy Services Network |
| Legislation Cited | N/A |
| Bibliography (Y/N) | N |
| Reviewer Name/Org | Shelly Martin, LMID |

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