

## Digest of Green Reports and Studies

<b>Title</b>	<b><i>High Road or Low Road? Job Quality in the New Green Economy</i></b>
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<b>Publication Type</b>	Report-Results from Case Studies
<b>Publication Date</b>	February 3, 2009
<b># of Pages</b>	46pp
<b>URL</b>	www.goodjobsfirst.org
<b>Summary</b>	<p>The purpose of this report is to determine how to make green jobs into goods jobs. Case studies of the working conditions (wages, job growth, unionization) of three different green sectors demonstrate what is happening in employment in each sector, and how it can be improved.</p> <p>The three sectors used in the case studies are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manufacturing of components for wind and solar energy</li> <li>• Green Construction</li> <li>• Waste Management (recycling)</li> </ul> <p>The conclusions find that low wages, offshore production of green components, and anti-union campaigns are challenging the quality of green jobs. The main thesis of the report is that green job quality is more important than quantity.</p> <p>This study was published February 3, 2009, by Good Jobs First.</p>
<b>Key Findings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “The fact that an employer is engaged in a business that benefits the environment does not necessarily mean that the employees of that enterprise are going to be treated well.”</li> <li>• Elected officials should help make green jobs good jobs because many green companies benefit from taxpayer dollars.</li> <li>• Job quality policies will help to ensure that businesses are creating higher quality green jobs.</li> <li>• There is an increasing number of jurisdictions that are requiring that companies subsidized by the government provide certain benefits for their employees.</li> <li>• Job quality standards in the green sector are becoming more widespread.</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State and local government should create a “living wage floor” so that all workers in the green sector can make enough money to “attain self-sufficiency and meet basic needs.”</li> <li>• Standards that are based on poverty levels need to take into account that poverty levels determined by the federal government are on the low end and should adjust their standards accordingly.</li> <li>• Prevailing wage rules need to be looked over closely and strictly enforced.</li> <li>• Best Value Contracting (BVC) should be used as a quality control for government bidders.</li> <li>• The bar on project labor agreements (PLA) for federally funded projects, that was put into place in 2001, should be removed so that these projects will be subject to the same conditions as projects that are not federally funded.</li> <li>• The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards should be revised to include worker quality standards.</li> <li>• Communities need to work together to promote labor standards.</li> <li>• If a business or organization does not adhere to all of the stipulations needed for their tax break, then the money should be taken back.</li> <li>• Jobs and investments in the green sector should require a certain amount of domestic sourcing to promote the American economy.</li> </ul>
<b>Definition of “Green”</b>	N/A
<b>Methodology</b>	Surveys, Interviews, Literature Research,
<b>Data Sources Cited</b>	Economic Policy Institute, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), U.S. Census, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
<b>Report Geography</b>	Portland, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Long Beach, North Dakota, Pennsylvania
<b>Green Occupations Cited</b>	Waste Management – truck driver, deconstruction (breaking down of building parts)
<b>Green Industries Cited</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wind energy</li> <li>• Solar energy</li> <li>• Renewable energy manufacturing</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste management (recycling)</li> <li>• Green Construction</li> </ul>
<b>Keywords</b>	Best Value Contracting (BVC); Project Labor Agreements (PLA); Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED); U.S. Green Building Council; National Recycling Coalition; unions.
<b>Legislation Cited</b>	Green Jobs Act
<b>Bibliography (Y/N)</b>	Y
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