

Digest of Green Reports and Studies

Title	<i>Low Carbon Jobs in an Interconnected World (2009)</i>
Author	NA
Organization	Center for American Progress and the Global Climate Network (GCN). GCN is made up of the Institute for Public Policy Research (UK), the Center for American Progress (USA), the Research Centre for Sustainable Development (China), The Energy and Resources Institute (India), the Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy (Germany), Vitae Civilis (Brazil), International Centre for Energy, Environment and Development (Nigeria), the Climate Institute (Australia), and IMBEWU Sustainability Legal Specialists Pty Ltd (South Africa).
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URL	http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/12/pdf/gcn_jobs.pdf
Summary	This report is a product of 8 separate national studies from Australia, China, Germany, India, Nigeria, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The low-carbon energy economy is seen as part of the interconnected global marketplace. Traditionally the tone of climate change policy has been negative, using words like “reductions” and “constraints”. The focus here is on the economic opportunities in the low-carbon energy economy, particularly low-carbon jobs.
Key Findings	<p>Actions to mitigate climate change should stimulate economic growth, provide high-paying jobs, and improve the wellbeing of people throughout the world. Low-carbon jobs creation should outnumber job losses from climate change legislation. The low-carbon energy economy has the potential to create millions of jobs. The report estimates that 19.2 million jobs could be created by 2020 if climate change policies are pursued. Australia predicts that by 2020 1.7 million low-carbon jobs could be created. In China climate change policies could lead to the creation of 6.7 million direct and indirect jobs. Germany is a leader in emissions and renewable energy targets and has 278,000 workers currently employed in renewable energy. By 2020 Germany could have between 353,500 and 400,000 low-carbon jobs. India’s National Action Plan on Climate Change could create 10.5 million jobs. If Indian firms could control 10 percent of the global wind power market, there would be 288,500 jobs in that industry. In Nigeria, if all untapped small-scale hydropower was developed and 37,000 megawatts of gas power was used, almost 670,000 jobs could be created. If South Africa uses 15 percent renewable energy by 2020, then 36,400 new direct jobs and 109,100 indirect jobs could be created. As many as 700,000 people could be employed in biofuels. In the UK if strong government policy is enacted, 70,000 jobs could be created. The UK has great potential for wind energy and is positioned to be a leader in wind financial and legal services. In the United States there could be up to 1.7 million jobs created by the stimulus package and the American Clean Energy and Security Act. Pending legislation in the Senate could increase the number to 1.9 million. Smart grid technology could create 278,600 jobs, of which 139,700 would be permanent. If other countries adopt smart grid technology, the United States could add another 138,000 jobs to serve the export market. Low-carbon jobs typically pay an above average wage and help stimulate economic growth. Government policies help drive the expansion of low-carbon jobs. Climate change legislation can lead to improved access to energy for underserved populations.</p>
Recommendations	Countries need to develop low-carbon industrial strategies that address the need to develop financing, training, and adjustment policies. Developing financing for the low-carbon energy economy is critical to its success; governments must pull all the available financial levers. Another critical aspect is training to ensure that workers possess the required skills, knowledge, and abilities for these new jobs. In the transition to the low-carbon energy economy there will be some job losses. Policymakers must make adjustment plans to address the needs of these workers. The report recommends policies to set ambitious renewable energy targets, put a price on carbon, increase funding for R&D, create technology testing facilities and centers for excellence, introduce economic support systems such as feed-in tariffs, and phasing out subsidies for carbon-intensive industries. There is a shortage of data on low-carbon jobs and low-carbon technology markets that needs to be addressed. Policymakers need to fill in the gaps for their local and national areas.
Definition of “Green”	Low-carbon jobs are defined as being part of the low-carbon energy economy as well as those in industries that supply the low-carbon sectors.
Methodology	There are 8 different reports, conducted at the national level, from member countries. These separate studies were integrated into a cohesive single report. Each member country did a

	national literature review, reviewed existing and proposed government policies, chose key low-carbon energy sectors, and produced employment estimates.
Data Sources Cited	The United Nations Environment Programme, available at www.unep.org U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (2009) "Employment Situation Summary", 6 November, available at www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm
Report Geography	Australia, China, Germany, India, Nigeria, South Africa, United Kingdom, and the United States.
Green Occupations Cited	NA
Green Industries Cited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable energy • Hydro energy generation • Small hydropower • Wind energy generation • Solar energy generation • Solar thermal • Biofuels • Energy efficiency • Smart grid technology • Alternative transportation
Keywords	Low-carbon jobs; climate change; renewable energy; energy efficiency; alternative transportation; smart grid; solar thermal; biofuels; small hydropower; photovoltaic.
Legislation Cited	H.R. 2454 - American Clean Energy and Security Act P.L. 111-5 - American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
Bibliography (Y/N)	Y
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