

Digest of Green Reports and Studies

Title	Skills for Green Jobs in Australia
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URL	http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---ifp_skills/documents/publication/wcms_143079.pdf
Summary	<p>This report discusses the current situation of Australia, as a country whose per-capita carbon footprint is particularly high, in respect to transitioning to greener approaches to its uses of energy and also in respect to the foreign trade implications for Australia, as a major supplier of fossil fuels (especially coal) to south-east Asian countries, of its customers' transition to greener approaches to energy use. The latter aspect is addressed only peripherally.</p> <p>This report focuses on Australia's domestic policy-level and pedagogical response. The report contends that the various Australian governments (national, states, and territories) have been inconsistent in their legislative responses to the prospect of global warming, due, partly, to the ineffectiveness of the Kyoto protocols and the indecisiveness of the Copenhagen convocation regarding climate change. Even though several Australian states and territories have nevertheless taken some legislative initiatives, the green future of Australia remains unsettled pending clear legislative and policy direction.</p> <p>This report's focus on governmental policy direction reflects the difference between a somewhat centralized, government-focused Australian approach and the less centralized American approach. Nevertheless, it struck the reviewer that the Australian approach seems more realistic than the American one because the substantial economic changes which full-blown response to the challenges of global warming will cause certainly need to be stimulated, validated, standardized, and cushioned by governmental action to establish certainties and a level playing field that will encourage the private sector to become engaged in more than merely peripheral, public-image-focused ways.</p> <p>This report shows awareness of the preliminary-ness and low-key nature of Australian responses in both the public and the private sectors. It points out that hard data are lacking regarding the "uptake" (job placement) effectiveness of pioneering efforts at qualifying workers for jobs in this developing, ever-changing sector of the economy. It reveals that the best first approach to qualifying workers has been via on-the-job learning of green aspects of their jobs by currently-employed technicians and professionals. The report shows that to some extent this is also beginning to be done via formal sit-down training, such as a Green Plumbing Initiative whereby working plumbers are taught green skills in quick classes (e.g., seven hours to learn about "climate care") which build on their established expertise. (The report reveals that the Australian Green Plumbing Initiative has been adopted by the California Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling Contractors in a 15-year agreement for use in "greening" their employees' plumbing skills.)</p> <p>The quite formal and standardized structure of even these initial Australian curricula is strikingly different from what is being done in America.</p> <p>To a large extent this report is not on-target for American circumstances because of the institutional and economic differences noted above. As a further example, this report describes "ecotourism" which in this report is not what it seems from the name: This "ecotourism" consists of replacing diesel-powered generators with solar panels to provide electricity to touristic encampments which are so remote in this gigantic, sparsely-populated country that they are outside its electricity grid. Obviously, this is such a minimal concern in the United States that no one would think of including it in a report regarding our approach to becoming greener.</p>
Key Findings	Australia has a way to go before it really is greener. "Insofar as regulatory and policy settings will determine the level of market demand and growth, they will also determine the development of green job skills. . . . Once the current political debate about the scale of the wider regulatory response (that is) needed, and its timing, is settled, we would anticipate that

	there is capacity to quickly take the next step in green-skilling the Australian workforce.”
Recommendations	Set national policy. Streamline industry and state-based initiatives into national equivalents. Ensure funding relates to demonstrated “green skilling” (skill development) needs. Conduct research to create a standard definition and taxonomy of green jobs and use this to determine employer demand and, in turn, “the effect that these skills will have on promoting sustainable outcomes in the workplace”.
Definition of “Green”	None. The general lack of agreement regarding this is one of the report’s concerns.
Methodology	This is an extended essay based on literature research.
Data Sources Cited	About 40 articles and other publications are listed in the list of references.
Report Geography	Australia.
Green Occupations Cited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coal Miner • Cotton Farmer • Business Analyst • Technician • Engineer • Consultant • Plumber
Green Industries Cited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar photovoltaic electricity production • Ernst & Young Climate Change and Sustainability Services Team <p>The report focuses on the greening of established industries including coal mining, agriculture, water distribution, plumbing, and tourism.</p>
Keywords	Australian Energy Policy.
Legislation Cited	Numerous Australian national, state, and territorial legislation.
Bibliography (Y/N)	Y
Reviewer Name/Org	Karl Jaensch, Workforce Services Branch, California Employment Development Department.

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