

What Are Green Jobs?

Green jobs are occupations that contribute to preserving or enhancing the quality of the environment, making our country more energy conscious and energy efficient. Many green jobs are in the areas of solar power, biofuels, wind power, mass transit and building retrofitting. The following jobs are likely to be found in these areas. Included is information on educational requirements and wages for South Carolina.

Clean Transportation & Fuels

Job Title	Wage (\$)	Education (OJT = on-the-job training)
Engine and Other Machine Assemblers	14.95	Short-term OJT
Mechanical Engineers (Fuel Cell & Automotive)	37.42	Bachelor's Degree
Biofuels Processing Technicians	18.99	Long-term OJT
Mechanical Engineering Technicians	23.42	Associate Degree
Industrial Production Managers (Geothermal, Biomass)	19.85	Long-term OJT
Electrical Engineering Technicians (inc. Fuel Cell)	27.54	Associate Degree
Dispatchers	16.46	Moderate OJT
Engineering Managers (Biodiesel, Product Development)	15.87	Bachelor's Degree +experience



Energy Efficiency



Job Title	Wage (\$)	Education Needed
Hazardous Materials Removal Workers	21.86	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Construction Laborers	13.02	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Carpenters (Also Construction and Rough Carpenters)	16.24	Long-term on-the-job training
Electricians	18.44	Long-term on-the-job training
Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	17.56	Long-term on-the-job training
Construction and Building Inspectors	19.89	Work experience in a related occupation
Architectural and Civil Drafters	24.68	Postsecondary vocational award
Construction Managers	8.49	Bachelor's degree
Landscape Architects	28.40	Bachelor's degree

Education, Consulting & Compliance

Job Title	Wage (\$)	Education Needed
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	15.75	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Regulatory Affairs Specialists (Also Compliance Officers)	22.31	Long-term on-the-job training
Energy Brokers	24.89	Work experience in a related occupation
Regulatory Affairs Managers (Wind Energy Operations & Site Managers)	34.81	Work experience in a related occupation
Precision Agriculture Technicians	21.94	Associate degree
Energy Auditors (Also Sustainability and Business Operations Specialists)	26.91	Bachelor's degree
Water Resource Specialists	46.70	Bachelor's degree
Chief Sustainability Officers	79.63	Bachelor's or higher, plus work exp.
Environmental Economists	33.02	Master's degree



Renewable & Clean Energy



Job Title	Wage (\$)	Education Needed
Solar Photovoltaic Installers	15.33	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Geothermal Technicians (Also Wind Turbine Service Technicians)	18.71	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Nuclear Power Reactor Operators	33.13	Long-term on-the-job training
Industrial Production Managers (Geothermal, Biofuels)	41.65	Work experience in a related occupation
Nuclear Technicians (Also Nuclear Equipment Operation Technicians)	28.78	Associate degree
Nuclear Engineers	43.32	Bachelor's degree
Energy Engineers (Also Robotics, Wind Energy and Solar Energy)	41.50	Bachelor's degree
Environmental Scientists and Specialists	25.37	Master's degree
Hydrologists	34.85	Master's degree

Pollution Prevention, Recycling & Cleanup

Job Title	Wage (\$)	Education Needed
Refuse and Recyclable Material Collector	12.24	Short-term on-the-job training
Forest and Conservation Workers	12.71	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Recycling and Reclamation Workers	12.36	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Farmers and Ranchers	20.53 (1)	Long-term on-the-job training
Agricultural and Food Science Technicians	17.95	Associate degree
Forest and Conservation Technicians	17.37	Associate degree
Soil and Plant Scientists	31.26	Bachelor's degree
Conservation Scientists (Also Soil and Water Conservationists)	32.43	Bachelor's degree
Foresters	24.82	Bachelor's degree



Some green jobs are so new that they are only just beginning to be recognized. Some of the newest jobs in the green industry are: Energy Auditors; Deconstruction Workers; Ethanol Plant Operators and Technicians; Biodiesel Lab Technicians; Solar Installers, Technicians, and Mechanics; and Wind Energy Technicians and Mechanics.

Sources: Green Jobs from the SC Department of Commerce; wage data (average hourly for SC) from the SC Department of Employment & Workforce, May 2009; Education Requirements from the Bureau of Labor Statistics
(1) Statewide wage unavailable--US wage shown