



## YOUR CAREER, OUR FUTURE

A green economy promises to create millions of new jobs and careers around the world – some of which have not even been considered yet. Smart decisions about your education, the skills you want to acquire, and the experience you want to earn could set you up for job of the future, and one that you yourself could even create. For those who are already in employment, seeing where you can incorporate a sustainability dimension to your work could pay dividends not only for your own future but for that of your workplace as well. Securing a good job for the future is important; securing a job that can help transform the future is critical.

### What are some of the necessary skills to make you competitive for a 'green' job?



#### Science skills

The world will need more environmental scientists, materials scientists, hydrologists, biochemists, biologists and other science experts to tackle challenges in fields such as land use planning, ecosystem management, and carbon capture storage design, among many others.



#### Architectural and planning skills

New regulations will require architects and planners who are able to translate those rules for their clients. There will be a growing demand for innovative building designs that maximize efficiency and minimize environmental footprint.



#### Operational and resource management skills

Businesses will need employees who are able to help them increase their efficiency and sustainability and strengthen their organization structures. Examples of specific positions in this field include chief sustainability officers, supply chain managers, and sales engineers.



#### Green engineering and tech skills

As demand grows for more efficient energy sources, there will be an increased need for skilled workers how can design, install and maintain solar panels and wind turbines, as well as innovative waste management technologies. The rise in electric and other low-emissions vehicles will also create jobs for engineers and others with strong tech skills.



#### Agriculture skills

There will be an increased demand for people skilled in conservation agriculture, climate-smart agriculture, organic farming, precision agriculture and urban farming.



### Monitoring skills

Tracking the impacts of environmental change and human impact will become ever more essential. In this regard, demand will grow for environmental compliance inspectors, nuclear monitoring technicians, government property inspectors, emergency management officials, and others skilled in environmental monitoring.



### Systems skills

The green economy will require skilled workers who are able to determine how a system should work and how changes in conditions, operations, and the environment will affect the system's outcomes. These skills include being able to identify performance indicators for the system as well as how the system can be corrected or improved. Understanding macroeconomics and long-term opportunity costs of failing to integrate sustainability in planning and execution of projects including large infrastructure projects will be critical.



### Complex problem-solving skills

Workers in every sector will need to be able to identify and analyse new and complex problems, then create innovative solutions that will work on the ground. Local politics is an example of one of the fields in which this skill could most effectively be put to use.



### Teaching and education skills

Teachers and trainers will need to embed the skills for a green economy into their courses, and thus may need to be retrained to that end. Skilled workers will be required to develop environmental literacy courses and to teach the growing number of environmental awareness courses that will be required.



### Environmental justice skills

The intersection between human rights and environmental rights is more important than ever, as the world reckons with a legacy of racial and social injustice that has contributed to pollution and poor environmental and public health. Understanding policy shifts and judicial processes, as well as history, will help ensure we are not doomed to repeat the same mistakes. Social science, anthropology and political science will all be fields that increasingly incorporate an environmental dimension.

### Can any job be “green(er)”?

The COVID-19 pandemic made it clear that proceeding with business as usual will not save the planet. An evolution toward green and circular economies will contribute to a transformation in the job market, requiring new skills and creating new opportunities for the future. Sustainability will become increasingly important to companies' bottom line, as consumers demand more from their favorite brands. Some jobs, however, will never be green, for example, if they support the production of fossil fuels or neonicotinoid pesticides.

To help you decide whether your career path is heading in the right direction, you can look at three things: intentions, approach and environmental outcome. Check the report to find more on this topic, and to find out how teachers, artists, and lawyers, among other professions, can take steps to “green” their jobs.

*“It is too late for the world to grow now, and only clean up later. It is time to grow clean, to go green. The Sustainable Development Goals are clear in the desire to combine decent work for all with environmental sustainability.”*

*The International Labour Organization*