Green Jobs – International Labour Organization perspective

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Neither green nor decent

Decent but not green

Green and decent

Green but not decent

Adapted from Green Jobs: Towards Decent Work in a Sustainable, Low-Carbon World, UNEP/ILO/IOE/ITUC, 2008.

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“A ‘green job’ is not by definition a decent job; green jobs will be made ‘decent’ not by default but by design.”

ILO Director-General, Guy Ryder
Green jobs are decent jobs that contribute to preserve or restore the environment.

Green jobs help:
- Improve energy and raw materials efficiency
- Limit greenhouse gas emissions
- Minimize waste and pollution
- Protect and restore ecosystems
- Support adaptation to the effects of climate change
Design, set and monitor **international labour standards**, aimed at ensuring economic growth and development are not at the expense of **rights at work**.

Promote **jobs and income opportunities** by making employment creation a priority.

Ensure **access to social protection** for all, to help make sure no one is left behind.

Foster **tripartism and social dialogue**, ensuring all world of work actors are ‘in the room’ to represent everyone’s needs.
Quality of employment

- Employment-related relationships and work motivation
- Occupational safety and health
- Equality and rights at work
- Adequate earnings
- Working time & work-life balance
- Employment security and social protection
- Skills development
- Social dialogue

ILO’s work on green jobs

- 2030 Agenda
- Paris Agreement & collaboration with UNFCCC
- Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)
- Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all
- Green jobs assessments, Just transition, green enterprises, social protection, skills development, policy research...
ILO’s work on forestry

Two tools developed through meeting of experts:

1998 – Code of Practice: Safety and health in forestry work

2005 – Guidelines for labour inspection in forestry


In May 2019 the ILO is organizing a tripartite Sectoral Meeting on promoting decent work and safety and health in forestry
Potential of green jobs in the future of work

- 18 million more jobs will result from achieving the Paris Agreement’s 2°C goal.
- 6 million more jobs will result from embracing the circular economy.
- 1.2 billion jobs depend on a stable and healthy environment.

Managed well, transitions to environmentally and socially sustainable economies can become a strong driver of job creation, job upgrading, social justice and poverty eradication.

ILC 2013. Conclusions concerning achieving decent work, green jobs and sustainable development