



Energy Blog

Green Economy: A Reimagining of the Traditional Economy (Page 1 of 4)

This week's blog is written by Briana Ancona, the Climate Corps Fellow for Energy and Environmental Services. This is part 1 of a 4-part Green Job Blog Series. This week's topic is on the green economy and jobs within the climate solution field.

You may have heard the phrase "Green Economy" tossed around in conversation, but what does it really mean? According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), a green economy is resource-efficient, produces little to no carbon dioxide, and is inclusive and accessible to all. Economic growth is driven by investing in sustainable innovations, prioritizing energy and resource efficiency, and strengthening ecosystem services.

Our traditional economic models prioritize immediate economic growth at the expense of all resources and lack a wholistic approach to sustainable economic growth. Unlike the traditional economic model, which often prioritizes financial wealth and industrial growth, the green economy focuses on balancing economic progress with conservation, climate innovations and social equity. It emphasizes the importance of human, social, physical, and natural capital, ensuring that development does not compromise the health of ecosystems or the quality of life for future generations.

Fri, July 5, 2024

Green Economy: A Reimagining of the Traditional Economy (Page 2 of 4)

As climate change's impacts worsen each year, prioritizing sustainable economic practices has grown increasingly important. In 2019, researchers calculated that the green economy generates about \$1.3 trillion in sales revenue in the United States, employing over 9.5 million people (Georgeson, L., Maslin, M.). Green jobs are everywhere, even if the name insinuates working outdoors.

What is a Green Job?

Green jobs are jobs that focus on environmental sustainability and preservation. And no, you don't have to be a scientist to have a green job. Green jobs are emerging across all sectors, from manufacturing and construction to science and technology communication, administration and legislation, and agriculture and food service.

The UNEP defines green jobs as “positions in agriculture, manufacturing, research and development, administrative, and service activities aimed at substantially preserving or restoring environmental quality.” These types of jobs contribute to climate adaptation. Climate change affects everything and to ensure the future generations have access to a healthy, livable, and sustainable planet, we must adapt to how climate change affects Earth.

Adaptive vs. Responsive Jobs

As you may know, CAP OC's Energy and Environmental Services (EES) department offers Healthy Home services, such as Weatherization and Asthma Remediation. Both services have created new jobs in what we call adaptive services.

Weatherization is the process of weatherproofing your home as it ages. This often includes sealing any cracks, holes, or leaks in the home, installing insulation, renovating the HVAC system, and switching to energy-efficient appliances. Our Asthma Remediation service provides minor home modifications that remove asthma triggers from the home, such as old carpeting. These services also provide other products, such as HEPA air filters and asthma-friendly cleaning products.

Both services require a workforce that is knowledgeable in building science, which

Green Economy: A Reimagining of the Traditional Economy (Page 3 of 4)

draws on architecture, engineering, physics, and math. Our department employs 42 employees and offers a hands-on apprenticeship program to those interested in entering construction. The entire Weatherization team comprises 12 employees, including two apprentices and two production assistants. We employ 6 Weatherization Inspectors/Assessors, who undergo a series of trainings and attend courses to become certified. We also have a Field Superintendent and Construction Senior Manager, who have a wider array of responsibilities within the Weatherization team.

Just as climate adaptation contributes to green economic growth, climate response also creates new jobs. As climate change increases the likelihood of extreme weather events, cities must increase their capacity to respond to natural disasters. For example, in October 2012, the East Coast was hit by Hurricane Sandy, which ravaged public infrastructure. Recovery from the storm required communal efforts for repair and reconstruction of damaged infrastructure. Aside from immediate disaster relief, the government must consider resilient infrastructure reconstruction.

These projects often required interdisciplinary teams, creating a wide range of employment opportunities in climate research and development. This is how responding to climate change spurs job creation. The Environmental and Energy Studies Institute found that:

“Climate jobs have been steadily on the rise in the US. The energy sector as a whole has regained 71% of the jobs lost due to the pandemic in 2020. With a 3.9% growth rate, clean energy job creation outpaced overall job growth in 2022. In total, there were more than 4.2 million climate jobs in 2022” (Environmental and Energy Study Institute).

This demonstrates the growth in the sustainability and green jobs sector. Aside from continual growth, the US has invested in passing policies, such as the Inflation Reduction Act, which has invested millions into creating new jobs within the green economy. Climate Change isn't going anywhere any time soon; If you're interested in learning more about what green jobs are available, check out this page on the Department of Labor's website [here](#).

Green Economy: A Reimagining of the Traditional Economy (Page 4 of 4)

Sources:

- (1) [Estimating the scale of the US green economy within the global context](#)
- (2) [Fact Sheet](#)
- (3) [Department of Labor](#)



Energy Blog

Green Job Spotlight: Urban Agriculture in Unexpected Places - The Giving Farm (Page 1 of 3)

This week's blog is a two-part blog on the Giving Farm, an urban farm founded in partnership with Westminster High School, the OC Food Bank, Solutions for Urban Ag, and the OC Farm Bureau. Today's blog highlights the importance of green jobs in local economies. Part two will highlight one of our AmeriCorps VIP Volunteer Coordinators, Cindy Tse.

Community Action Partnership of Orange County has been serving the residents for 50+ years as a 501(c)3 non-profit. In 1979, CAP OC launched the Orange County Food Bank to end hunger and malnutrition. Decades later, in 2017-2018, the Giving Farm at Westminster High School was launched as a farm-to-food bank collaborative community program in partnership with Solutions for Urban Agriculture and the Huntington Beach Union High School District.

The National FFA Organization & Westminster High School

The Future Farmers of America Organization is a national organization that supports and prepares students for leadership, career success, and personal growth through agricultural education.

The Giving Farm is a farm-to-food bank program managed by Solutions for Urban Agriculture, the Orange County Food Bank, OC Farm Bureau, and the Westminster High School FFA Agriculture Program. Located at Westminster High School, it provides students and volunteers with the unique opportunity to learn about urban

Fri, July 12, 2024

Green Job Spotlight: Urban Agriculture in Unexpected Places - The Giving Farm (Page 2 of 3)

agriculture and its connection to local food systems. The program expects to deliver over 200,000 pounds of produce annually to our OC Food Bank, providing healthy, fresh, and local options to our low-income communities. In April of this year, the farm celebrated donating over 1,000,000 pounds of food to the food bank.

How the Giving Farm Came to Be

Community Action Partnership of Orange County is a multi-faceted organization that provides a variety of services and assistance to those in need. Food insecurity is a complex issue that Food Bank Director Mark Lowry has been working to combat in his time at CAP OC.

Lowry has dedicated over 35 years of service to combatting food insecurity in Orange County. The farm is just one of his solutions to provide fresh produce to residents who frequent the food bank. He notes that for 20 years, he and the founder of Urban Ag Solutions, AG Kawamura, were searching for land to convert into an urban farm. After years of unsuccessful scouting, Kawamura noticed a lot of land off the 405 freeway.

That parcel of land ended up being right behind Westminster High School, which coincidentally was one of nine schools that had an Agriculture Program on-site. Unfortunately, due to a lack of resources, farming operations had stalled. Lowry seized the opportunity and established the farm in partnership with the school and the OC Farm Beauru. Solutions for Urban Ag steward the land, employing an experienced team of farm hands to manage operations.

Planting a Seed

As this is a nonprofit collaborative farm, the farm offers many volunteer opportunities. The investment into restoring the land has garnered the farm interest, both from students and community members. This has spurred the need to expand the on-site agricultural program. Since the establishment of the farm, 4 onsite jobs have been created in addition to various contract work opportunities. This has included the hiring of one new teacher, a farm foreman position, and two part time animal aid positions. Through the Food Bank, The Giving Farm has become a work site for the AmeriCorps Volunteer Infrastructure Project (VIP).

Green Job Spotlight: Urban Agriculture in Unexpected Places - The Giving Farm (Page 3 of 3)

AmeriCorps, a federal agency, brings people together to tackle the country's most pressing challenges through national service and volunteering. These VIPs are in charge of managing volunteers and completing other administrative tasks in addition to assisting in the field.

This partnership underscores the importance of community collaboration; this coalition has provided incredible hands-on learning experiences for students and spurred the local economy, creating new job opportunities for locals.

When speaking to Mark, he noted that while the intention of founding the farm was never to create new jobs, it has had a positive impact on the local economy. In addition, the farm has exposed hundreds of students and volunteers to agriculture and careers in food production. That exposure will hopefully plant a seed into the minds of America's future farmers.

Sources:

- (1) [Westminster High Schools Giving Farm helps feed the Community](#)
- (2) [The Giving Farm](#)



Energy Blog



Green Job Resources – Where to look and what to know (Page 1 of 5)

This week's blog is part three of the four-part July Green Jobs blog series. Today, we will dive into resources and job-searching tips for those looking to enter the green job sector.

So, you've decided you want to get a job in the environmental and sustainability sector. Now what? You should research a few things before sending your resume off for review. Let's start off with the resume.

Resume Building

A well-written resume should be 1 page long, summarize your most notable and relevant work/volunteer experience, list hard skills plainly, and include your contact information. Make sure to call out experience pertinent to the job you're applying for and utilize adjectives and nouns present in the job listing. Many companies are using algorithmic technology to filter out resumes that best fit the job description, using it as a reputable pre-screening tool. The best way to work around this is to tailor your resume to the job description. Regardless of your career background, your resume is the opportunity to show how the skills you do possess are transferable to the job.

Aside from this, keep the formatting simple. While a nice template might make your resume stand out, it can cause the resume screening technology to misread your resume and screen it out. Keeping your resume "plain" and straight to the point is

Fri, July 19, 2024

Green Job Resources – Where to look and what to know (Page 2 of 5)

the best way to ensure it is accessible by screen readers. Here’s an example of a resume that falls within these guidelines:

[Name]
 [Physical Address]
 [Phone Number] | [Email Address]

EDUCATION

[University Name] [City], [State/Country]
Bachelor of [Arts/Science] in [Major] Expected [Graduation Date]

- **GPA:** [xx] / 4.0; SAT: [xx] [If you’re outside the US, list grades under your system here instead]
- **Honors:** [xx]
- **Relevant Coursework:** [Economics / Accounting / Finance classes, anything business-related]

WORK & LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

[Company Name] [City], [State/Country]
[Position Title], [Group Name] [Start Date] – [End Date]

- [Summary sentence stating what you did and the overall results of your work]
- Selected [Client / Project / Transaction] Experience:
 - [Project #1]
 - [Led team to do xx, which resulted in more efficiency / time or money saved / higher sales]
 - [Project #2]
 - [Analyzed xx and concluded that key factor was xx, which made project viable / not viable; resulted in company proceeding with project]
 - [Project #3]
 - [Created xx new method for doing xx; led to increased efficiency / sales]

[Company Name] [City], [State/Country]
[Position Title], [Group Name] [Start Date] – [End Date]

- [Summary sentence stating what you did and the overall results of your work]
- [Led team’s efforts to do xx by creating/managing xx; resulted in increased sales / profits / cost savings]
- [Analyzed options available for xx and recommended xx based on time and resource considerations; implementation led to successful marketing of xx]
- [Developed strategy for marketing to new prospective clients / fund-raising / promoting brand; resulted in increased awareness / capital commitments]

[Student Club Name] [City], [State/Country]
[Position Title] [Start Date] – [End Date]

- [Summary sentence stating what you did and the overall results of your work]
- [Recruited over xx members to club with promotional campaign]
- [Organized conferences, speaker events and community events]

SKILLS, ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS

Languages: Fluent in [xx]; Conversational Proficiency in [xx]
Technical Skills: [List any programming languages – **not** MS Office/Excel]
Certifications & Training: [Any extra courses or programs relevant to finance]
Activities: [Student Clubs, Volunteer Work, Independent Activities]
Interests: [Keep this to 1-2 lines and be specific; do **not** go overboard]

Where do to look for job listings?

Now that you’ve built a nice resume for yourself, it’s time to look for jobs. Keep in mind that not every industry advertises open positions as a “green” job. Start off your job search by browsing the internet and looking up ‘green jobs near me’. This simple word search should yield valuable results if you are using the Google search engine.

Green Job Resources – Where to look and what to know (Page 3 of 5)

Other websites to look for jobs include LinkedIn, indeed, and Handshake. There are also search engines tailored to aggregating green jobs postings.

Green Jobs Board is an accessible career platform that provides employers a place to reach job seekers who are eager to enter the climate space. The platform has grown exponentially since its initial founding in 2022, reaching a wide audience and empowering jobseekers with opportunities to create impactful careers that address the climate crisis. Learn more about the Green Jobs Board here and what other resources they offer job seekers.

Similar to the Green Jobs Board is Climatebase, which identifies itself as the platform to take climate action. Similar to the Green Jobs Board, Climatebase aggregates job listings and companies that are taking action to fight against climate change.

Another useful platform to look at is the Community Alliance with Family Farmers job board. This is an example of a more specialized job board focusing on agriculture and farm jobs, though not all job listings are necessarily focused on farm labor.

Whether you are an expert in the field or applying to an entry-level position, be open to continuing learning. Chances are you are applying for a job because you're interested in the work, not because you already know how to do the job. The biggest piece of advice to consider during your job search is to evaluate all options that align with your personal values and work ethic.

What about experience?

Most, if not all, job listings you come across are going to ask for some prior work experience. While this may be discouraging, especially to those who are looking for an entry-level position, there are many ways to gain work experience. While this may be discouraging, volunteering is the easiest way to gain experience. Most, if not all, job listings you come across are going to ask for some prior work experience. While this may be discouraging, especially to those who are looking for an entry-level position, there are many ways to gain work experience.

Green Job Resources – Where to look and what to know (Page 4 of 5)

While this may be discouraging, volunteering is the easiest way to gain experience. Some might say volunteering is “working for free,” but it is much more than simply offering to help with a task. Volunteering builds social skills in conjunction with teamwork-building skills. When you volunteer, you are helping build community through acts of service and kindness. Volunteering also provides learning opportunities; Whether it is developing a specific skill or assisting with a project or event, volunteering helps build confidence and skills in the next generation of workers.

There are various volunteer match programs out there that can help you find a volunteer opportunity. VolunteerMatch is a platform similar to a job board but for volunteer positions that are currently open and available. Similarly, AmeriCorps, a federal agency, brings people together to tackle challenges through national service and volunteering. AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers serve with organizations dedicated to the improvement of communities. This workforce development program matches volunteers and prospective job seekers with host sites to make an impact in their communities.

AmeriCorps also offers fellowship opportunities, which are incredibly valuable to young professionals looking to break into their respective fields. Fellowships are training programs that offer workers the opportunity to develop skills professionally. Often, fellowships are supplemented with other forms of education and offer compensation. Fellows have more responsibilities than average entry-level workers and gain professional work experience that can be leveraged in future job applications.

What else should you do?

While all these tips are useful for job seekers, make sure you are also taking the opportunity to network with professionals who are in the field you want to work in. Networking is the act of building professional rapport with individuals who share common interests or work in the same profession. Networking can provide you with contacts or advice from peers; It can also provide you with job prospects or future opportunities. LinkedIn is a virtual networking platform and a job board that allows employers to connect with potential applicants directly.

Green Job Resources – Where to look and what to know (Page 5 of 5)

If you are looking to start building your own network and a professional portfolio, LinkedIn is the most straightforward and accessible platform to do so.

In a gist...

You should have a simple, comprehensive resume summarizing all relevant work experience for the job you are applying for. You should send applications to many jobs, regardless of whether your abilities match the description. Check multiple online job boards and ask around. If you are in school, ask a professor or trusted mentor if they have any job leads or are hiring. Any experience is a good experience if you can apply the skills you learned to your job, whether it be customer service or intensive research.

Sources:

- (1) [Climatebase](#)
- (2) [Green Jobs Board](#)
- (3) [Farm Jobs, Internships & Land Opportunities](#)
- (4) [LinkedIn](#)
- (5) [Indeed](#)



Energy Blog

Green Job Spotlight - Cindy Tse, AmeriCorps VIP (Page 1 of 2)

This week's blog is written by Briana Ancona, CAP OC's Climate Corps Fellow. This is part two of our Green Job Spotlight

The Volunteer Infrastructure Project (VIP) inspires community volunteerism, connecting community members with their neighbors in need. VIP Fellows are AmeriCorps members who lead “behind the scenes” in existing schools and nonprofits (Partner Sites) to build sustainable volunteer programs. Cindy Tse is a VIP Fellow at Westminster High School. Her responsibilities include leading volunteers, performing administrative tasks, assisting in the fields, and harvesting.

How Cindy came to work at the OC Food Bank

Cindy Tse is a recent college graduate with a degree in International Relations from UC Irvine. She wanted to get her foot in the door of the nonprofit sector and heard about the position through AmeriCorps. The Orange County Food Bank offers a VIP position to manage volunteers at The Giving Farm. She noted that she was interested in this position because it offered the best of both worlds: hands-on experience in the field and management & admin requirements. This work opportunity also aligned with Cindy's personal interests.

The service site that she is at allows her to explore issues of food insecurity from a social and ecological perspective. She values intersectionality and wants to continue to chase her curiosity for solutions to intersectional environmental issues.

Fri, July 26, 2024

Green Job Spotlight - Cindy Tse, AmeriCorps VIP (Page 2 of 2)

When asked why she chose to focus on specifically food production and farming, Cindy noted many people do not know the intricacies of food production and how it is produced. She even admits that when she first began, she didn't have as deep of an understanding of farming operations as she does now.

Cindy is a contracted worker through AmeriCorps, spending three to four hours out on the field a day. While it is hard work, Cindy enjoys it and spends her time out in the field imagining what other possibilities lie outside of conventional agriculture.

Now that her service term is coming to an end, Cindy plans to go back to school and pursue her Master's degree. She is debating between Cal State LA and Loyola Marymount but she states she truly wants to pursue something in conservation and wildlife management. She offered this piece of advice to anyone looking to get into a green job: Look up local advocacy groups and get in contact with them. It really starts in your backyard. You need to start small and focus on the people around you. A lot of these organizations are always looking for help and can offer so many resources. Get involved however you can and find your niche.

Congratulations to Cindy Tse for completing her term with AmeriCorps and Community Action Partnership of Orange County. The EES Department applauds your hard work and wishes you well in your future aspirations!