

Green Jobs are Growing California's Economy

Despite the recent economic recession, which confronted Americans with unemployment, stagnant wages, and rising fuel costs, there was one sector that outshone the rest: **the clean economy**. And with California's unemployment rate hovering above 11 percent for over two years,¹ the state is poised to gain from investing in the clean economy.

The clean economy is growing and outpaced the rest of the economy during the recession.

The clean economy grew faster than the rest of the economy during the height of the recession, "expanding at a rate of 8.3 percent." Additionally, the clean economy added "more than half a million jobs between 2003 and 2010."² From January 2009 to January 2010, green manufacturing jobs in California increased by one percent, while California's economy as a whole registered a 7 percent decrease in employment.³

California's clean economy is the largest in the country.

California's clean economy employs more than 318,000 workers making up just over 2 percent of California's total workforce.⁴

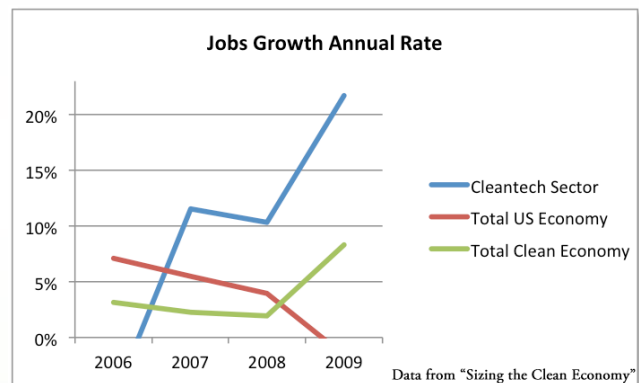
Jobs in the clean economy are good and accessible to California's workers.

Over 43 percent of California's clean jobs were held by workers with a high school diploma or less, with an average annual wage of over \$46,000,⁵ greater than the average annual wage for all jobs in California.⁶

Growing the Green Economy

California has adopted public policies to support continued growth of its clean economy.

California currently offers four critical policies identified by The Pew Charitable Trusts that support a state's clean economy — financial incentives, renewable portfolio standards, energy efficiency resource standards and regional cap-and-trade programs.⁷



California's Renewable Portfolio Standard will create and support thousands of good jobs.

California's current Renewable Portfolio Standard of 33 percent by 2020 "could generate over 500,000 new green collar jobs in the next several decades."^{8 6}

Investments in public transportation, including intercity high-speed rail, will create over 64,000 green jobs in California over the next six years.

These jobs would be created as part of a \$40 billion national investment that would support middle class jobs, "with wages mainly in the middle of the wage distribution."⁹

Energy efficiency measures in California have created 1.5 million full-time jobs.

Energy efficient household savings of \$56 billion between 1972 and 2006 redirected household expenditures toward other goods and services creating about 1.5 million jobs with a payroll of \$45 billion.¹⁰

Los Angeles Clean Ports Program cut pollution, improved working conditions

As part of the LA Clean Ports Program, more than 9,800 new, cleaner trucks are operating out of the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.¹¹ These new trucks contributed to an 80 percent reduction in harmful diesel pollution and better working conditions for port truck drivers. However, industry players have halted progress and are determined to dismantle the program through a protracted court battle.¹²

American Canyon High School in American Canyon, California, is one of the greenest schools in the country.

The school has “many green features, including natural lighting, a 1-megawatt solar electrical system, low-flow water fixtures and a geothermal heating and cooling system.”¹³ According to a report from the U.S. Green Building Council, green schools “can save \$100,000 per year on operating costs — enough to hire at least one new teacher, buy 200 computers, or purchase 5,000 textbooks.”¹⁴

The recycling of existing materials in California has created over 115,000 good, green jobs.¹⁵

This number includes jobs in the collection and processing of recyclable materials, including jobs at firms running a recycling or wastewater plant, environmental clean-up and remediation, while excluding jobs at companies that provide bins for recyclable paper, glass, and cans. Nationally, achieving a recycling rate of 75 percent would create and sustain nearly 1.5 million by 2030.¹⁶

California's clean economy in numbers:

Clean jobs (2003): 239,064
Clean jobs (2010): 318,156
Annual Change (03-10): 4.2%
Exports per job (2009): \$16,314
Average annual wage (2009): \$46,400

Fast growing clean industries in California:

- Smart Grid
- Renewable Energy
- Fuel Cells
- Solar Thermal
- Wind

Source: “Sizing the Clean Energy Economy”

1. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
2. “Sizing the Clean Economy,” The Brookings Institution, 2011.
3. “Many Shades of Green: 2012,” Next 10, 2012.
4. “Sizing the Clean Economy: The Clean Economy in the State of California,” The Brookings Institution, 2011.
5. “Sizing the Clean Economy.”
6. “Sizing the Clean Economy: The Clean Economy in the State of California.”
7. “The Clean Energy Economy: California Fact Sheet,” The Pew Charitable Trusts, June 2009.
8. “California's Renewable Energy Fact Sheet,” Union of Concerned Scientists, April 2011.

9. “Impact of Alternate Public Transit and Rail Investment Scenarios on the Labor Market,” October 15, 2010.
10. “Energy Efficiency, Innovation, and Job Creation in California,” University of California Berkeley Center for Energy, Resources, and Economic Sustainability (CERES), October 2008.
11. “Port of Los Angeles Clean Truck Program Fact Sheet,” The Port of Los Angeles, January 1, 2012.
12. Ibid.
13. “American Canyon High School praised as blueprint for green jobs,” American Canyon Eagle, December 15, 2011.
14. Ibid.
15. “California's Green Economy: Summary of Survey Results,” State of California Employment Development Department, October 2010.
16. “More Jobs, Less Pollution: Growing the Recycling Economy in the U.S.,” Tellus Institute, 2011.



The BlueGreen Alliance is a national, strategic partnership between labor unions and environmental organizations dedicated to expanding the number and quality of jobs in the green economy.

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