

Green Jobs Growing Pennsylvania's Economy

Despite the economic recession of the late 2000s, which confronted Americans with unemployment, stagnant wages, and rising fuel costs, there was one sector that outshone the rest: **the clean economy**. Pennsylvania is poised to gain from investing in green.

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.”¹

Pennsylvania's clean economy is the fourth largest in the country.

Pennsylvania's clean economy employs over 118,600 workers making up just over 2 percent of Pennsylvania's total workforce.² A recent figure from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics puts the number of green jobs in Pennsylvania at 182,193.³

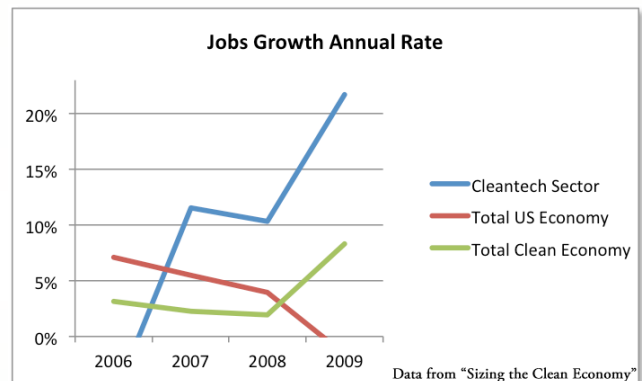
Jobs in the clean economy are good and accessible to Pennsylvania's workers..

Forty-six percent of Pennsylvania's clean jobs were held by workers with a high school diploma or less, with an average annual wage of over \$39,200,⁴ more than \$2,300 over the average annual wage for all jobs in Pennsylvania.⁵

Growing the Green Economy

Pennsylvania has adopted several public policies to support its clean economy, but it can do more.

Of four critical policies identified by The Pew Charitable Trusts that support a state's clean economy, Pennsylvania offers financial incentives, a renewable portfolio standard and energy efficiency resource standard. Another policy that would encourage clean economic development is a regional cap and trade program.⁶



Renewable Electricity Standards (RES) support a strong, growing manufacturing industry.

By adopting a baseline 25 percent federal RES by 2025, 42,668 green jobs in Pennsylvania would be created or sustained. That would amount to 19,588 jobs in the wind energy sector, 15,767 in the solar energy sector, 3,402 in the geothermal energy sector, and 3,911 in the biomass sector.⁷

The recycling industry in Pennsylvania is creating thousands of good, green jobs.

In 2007, over 52,000 people were employed in Pennsylvania's recycling industry at over 3,800 recycling related establishments.⁸ Nationally, achieving a recycling rate of 75 percent would create and sustain nearly 1.5 million jobs by 2030.⁹

Investments in public transportation, including intercity high-speed rail, will create over 29,000 green jobs in Pennsylvania 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.”¹⁰

Pennsylvania's clean economy in numbers:

Clean jobs (2003): 99,334
Clean jobs (2010): 118,686 – 182,193*
Annual Change (03-10): 2.6%
Exports per job (2009): \$15,709
Average annual wage (2009): \$39,266

Fast growing clean industries in Pennsylvania:

- Efficient Lighting
- Solar Photovoltaic
- Wind
- Professional Energy Services|
- Biofuels/Biomass

Source: "Sizing the Clean Economy"

* U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

1. "Sizing the Clean Economy," The Brookings Institution, 2011.
2. "Sizing the Clean Economy: The Clean Economy in the State of Pennsylvania," The Brookings Institution, 2011.
3. "Economic News Release: Green Goods and Services (GGS) employment by state, 2010 annual averages," U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, March 22, 2012, <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ggqcew.t04.htm> (accessed March 29, 2012).
4. "Sizing the Clean Economy."
5. "Sizing the Clean Economy: The Clean Economy in the State of Pennsylvania," The Brookings Institution, 2011.
6. "The Clean Energy Economy: Pennsylvania Fact Sheet," The Pew Charitable Trusts, June 2009.
7. Renewable Energy Policy Project estimates from "Building the Clean Energy Assembly Line," BlueGreen Alliance, 2009.
8. "Recycling Economic Information Study Update: Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania," Northeast Recycling Council, February 2009, http://www.nerc.org/documents/recycling_economic_information_study_update_2009.pdf (accessed March 15, 2012).
9. "More Jobs, Less Pollution: Growing the Recycling Economy in the U.S.," Tellus Institute, 2011, <http://www.bluegreenalliance.org/admin/publications/files/MoreJobsLessPollutionFinal-1.pdf> (accessed February 13, 2012).
10. Impact of Alternate Public Transit and Rail Investment Scenarios on the Labor Market," October 15, 2010, <http://www.epi.org/page/-/pdf/ib285.pdf> (accessed February 13, 2012).



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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