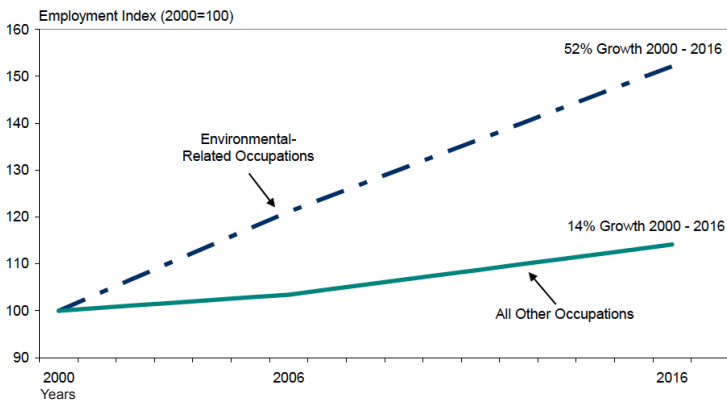


Emerging Job Market is Green

A growing trend in the US job market is an increased emphasis on green jobs. Green jobs or green-collar jobs are defined by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as “positions in agriculture, manufacturing, construction, installation, and maintenance, as well as scientific and technical, administrative, and service-related activities that contribute substantially to preserving or restoring environmental quality.” This increase in green jobs has also been accompanied by substantial federal funding that is providing opportunities for green job training. Training in this growing field can offer fantastic opportunities for PHA residents to learn valuable tools which can greatly increase their earning potential.

The President’s Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) July 2009 [report](#), “Preparing the Workers of Today for the Jobs of Tomorrow,” stated that there is a strong growth potential for jobs in fields relating to clean energy and environmental protection. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) found that jobs in an environmental-related field, which included environmental engineering technicians, environmental engineers, environmental scientists and specialists (including health), and environmental science and protection technicians (including health), grew faster than other occupations from 2000-2006, and they further projected growth through 2016. The figure below illustrates this, showing past and future growth.



Actual and Projected Growth of Environmental-Related Occupations vs All Other Occupations, 2000-2016

Sources: “Occupational Employment Projections to 2010,” Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Monthly Labor Review*, November 2001. “Occupational Employment Projections to 2016,” Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Monthly Labor Review*, November 2007.

Graph Source: The President’s Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) July 2009 Report

totaling close to \$440 million in the green jobs market, which were made possible through ARRA. According to the DOL, “[t]hese grants are part of a larger Recovery Act initiative — totaling \$500 million — to fund workforce development projects that promote economic growth by preparing workers for careers in

the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries.” For descriptions of specific grant programs and information on grant recipients, visit the DOL’s green jobs [webpage](#).

To further quantify the current green job market and estimate future green jobs, Booz Allen Hamilton, a strategy and technology consulting firm, prepared a study for the [US Green Building Council](#) (USGBC), which calculated the number of jobs attributed to the green construction market for the years 2000-2008 and forecasts the number of jobs that will be created by green construction for the years 2009-2013.

The results of this study showed a substantial economic impact from green building construction between the years of 2000-2008. During this period, the green construction market supported over 2.4 million jobs and generated \$173 billion dollars in gross domestic product (GDP), which equated to \$123 billion in labor earnings. The study forecasts that jobs within this industry will continue to grow over the next five years to 7.9 million. The green building market is estimated to generate \$554 billion dollars in GDP, which will equate to \$396 billion in labor earnings.

Public housing residents can increase their marketability for obtaining a green job by utilizing training authorized through the DOL. Residents can utilize the websites below to obtain a higher paying green job once

their training is completed. They can also use the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education’s (AASHE) [website](#) to find a higher educational program in an environmental field to further strengthen their skills.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Federal Energy Management Program - First Thursday Seminars

▶ February 4 – July 1, 2010
www.tinyurl.com/yhx2hbl

BuildingEnergy 10 Conference

▶ March 9 - 11, 2010 | Boston, MA
www.nesea.org/buildingenergy

National Green Building Conference

▶ May 16-18, 2010 | Raleigh, NC
www.tinyurl.com/ngc10

Five Day Intensive EPC Course

▶ June 14-18, 2010 | Chicago, IL
 Call 312-554-0900 to register or contact Eugene Goldfarb, at egoldf1@uic.edu

Enviro Build Expo

▶ October 13 - 14, 2010 | Hartford, CT
www.envirobuildexpo.com

Green Degree = Green Job

The AASHE website lists over 100 green, higher education programs. Programs are located at colleges across the country and include minors and certificates as well as Bachelor’s, Master’s and Doctoral degrees. Certificates and degrees can be earned in fields relating to energy and environmental sustainability.

The [USGBC’s Career Center](#) connects its members with green employment opportunities and [greenjobsearch.org](#) lists energy and environment related jobs and careers throughout the US and worldwide. [Green Collar Blog](#) has compiled a list with links to multiple job boards that would be helpful when searching for a green job.

New Construction with LEED for Homes

Leadership in Energy and Design (LEED) for Homes is a guide provided by the USGBC for the sustainable planning, design, and construction of single-family homes. The achievement of a LEED certification is an indication to prospective owners and occupants that the building has met high standards in the follow areas:

1. Innovation and Design Process - LEED encourages the planning, design, and construction team to be active and innovative in developing new solutions to improve the sustainability of homes.
2. Location and Linkages - A properly selected site minimizes the distance from everyday necessities such as schools and shopping.
3. Sustainable Sites - Proper site planning minimizes damage to local habitats during and after construction and reduces the amount of water needed for irrigation.
4. Water Efficiency - A LEED-certified home is designed with water-saving features, which may include on-site systems for water treatment and reuse.
5. Energy and Atmosphere - A LEED-certified home optimizes energy performance beyond ENERGY STAR for homes particularly in the building envelope and HVAC design.
6. Materials and Resources - A LEED-certified home is constructed using recycled, reclaimed, sustainably harvested, and locally produced materials.
7. Indoor Environmental Quality - A home designed to LEED standards maximizes indoor air quality by minimizing exposure to the toxins and other pollutants found in typical homes.
8. Awareness and Education - This also ensures that the owners and occupants of a building understand the special features of their home and how to maintain them.

Within these areas a single-family home can gain points, above a minimum level of performance, toward LEED certification through LEED for Homes. There are four levels of LEED certification depending on the number of points obtained, which are Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum. Homes that obtain 45-59 points will be considered Certified, 60-74 are Silver, 75-89 are Gold and 90-136 are Platinum.

PHAs and developers can begin the certification process for new construction on the US Green Building Council's (USGBC) website. The USGBC [website](#) also includes guidelines and information on LEED for Homes certification, the LEED Affordable Housing Initiative and REGREEN, the LEED site for home remodeling.

ENERGY STAR @ Home – Tips that Save

ENERGY STAR has created an interactive [tool](#) that you can use to save energy and money in every room of your home. Residents can take the room-by-room tour for daily energy-saving tips and methods to employ during small home-upgrade projects.

Picture: www.energystar.gov

REGREEN Your Next Remodeling Project

PHAs planning remodeling projects within their stock this year can check out the new residential remodeling program [REGREEN](#), that was created through a partnership between the USGBC and the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID).

Before remodeling, the [REGREEN Strategy Generator](#) can be used to identify green measures that can be implemented during the project. Enter the scope, type and goal of the project and the program will generate a list of potential green strategies that are tailored specifically for the remodel.

PHAs can also find green remodeling guidelines, which are free to download and address similar elements as LEED for Homes, including: location, site development, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, and indoor environmental quality, but within the context of green renovation. The guidelines use case studies, product selection information, building systems integration and proven green technologies and apply these to a variety of home renovation projects. These projects range from do-it-yourself small scale projects, such as replacing a dishwasher, to large-scale professional renovations.

Resident's Corner

Make a Green Resolution This Year



Picture: www.epa.gov

A new year is a time for renewal... but you can keep the tradition going year-round by pledging to reuse and recycle! Right now, the EPA is challenging YOU to [Pick 5](#) for the Environment – 5 resource-saving, money-saving resolutions, that is.

Commit to commute. Feel empowered by turning off the power. Engage in informing yourself and others. However you choose to take part, you will be off to a great start in 2010.



We want to hear from you! Please send us nominations for projects to be highlighted in EcoWise.

Contact us at ecowise@deval.us