

Middle-Wage Jobs Industry Data Series: GREEN



MIDDLE-WAGE JOB: Occupations requiring some training or education beyond high school, but not necessarily a 4-year degree, and paying a living wage.ⁱ

GREEN SECTOR: Broadly defined, “the green economy is rooted in the development and use of products and services that promote environmental protection and clean energy. It is composed of industries and businesses engaged in four core areas:

- **Increasing energy efficiency**
- **Producing renewable energy**
- **Preventing and reducing environmental pollution**
- **Providing mitigation or cleanup of environmental pollution**ⁱⁱ

SJI’s own researchⁱⁱⁱ on green jobs further categorizes the occupations associated with this growing green economy into eight industry subsectors:

- **Green Building**
- **Energy Efficiency**
- **Renewable Energy**
- **Recycling & Waste Management**
- **SmartGrid/Smart Energy**
- **Biofuels/Biomass**
- **Alternative Transportation**
- **Sustainable Agriculture**

GREEN OCCUPATIONS: Green jobs are either:

- Jobs in businesses that produce goods or provide services that benefit the environment or conserve natural resources.
- Jobs in which workers’ duties involve making their establishment’s production processes more environmentally friendly or use fewer natural resources.^{iv}

The green subsectors identified above employ a variety of occupations, many of which satisfy Washington State’s definition of a green job: “jobs that promote environmental protection and clean energy.”^v Further, more stringent definitions of green jobs identify not only those occupations in areas that are good for the environment, but that also pay family-supporting wages and provide good benefits and healthy working conditions.

2010 MIDDLE-WAGE GREEN JOBS BY EARNINGS AND EDUCATION

The following occupations are identified as Green Jobs in Demand for Seattle-King County.[†]

Occupation	2010 Jobs	Current Median Hourly Earnings	Education Level
Computer specialists, all other	2,342	\$39.48	Associate’s degree
Environmental engineering technicians	80	\$27.08	Associate’s degree
Electrical and electronic engineering technicians	365	\$27.01	Associate’s degree
First-line supervisors/managers of mechanics, installers, and repairers	1,332	\$33.31	Work experience in a related field
Managers, all other	8,488	\$24.89	Work experience in a related field
Automotive service technicians and mechanics	1,703	\$22.17	Postsecondary vocational award
Machinists	406	\$22.72	Long-term on-the-job training
Stationary engineers and boiler operators	106	\$27.05	Long-term on-the-job training
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	4,072	\$21.54	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Sales representatives, services, all other	4,257	\$25.88	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing, technical and scientific products	3,011	\$35.99	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Cargo and freight agents	1,134	\$22.14	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Production, planning, and expediting clerks	1,143	\$21.61	Short-term on-the-job training
Refuse and recyclable material collectors	441	\$24.24	Short-term on-the-job training

Source: Economic Modeling Specialists Inc. (EMSI)

† Demand occupations are defined by the Demand/Decline list for Seattle-King County Workforce Development Area.

MIDDLE-WAGE GREEN OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS – Seattle-King County

Middle-wage Green Occupations are slated for long-term growth for the region.

Occupation	Avg. Annual Growth Rate 2008-2013	Avg. Annual Growth Rate 2013-2018
Computer specialists, all other	0.2%	0.6%
Environmental engineering technicians	0.4%	2.2%
Electrical and electronic engineering technicians	0.1%	2.1%
First-line supervisors/managers of mechanics, installers, and repairers	-0.7%	0.6%
Managers, all other	0.2%	1.1%
Automotive service technicians and mechanics	0.2%	0.1%
Machinists	-1.5%	0.2%
Stationary engineers and boiler operators	1.4%	1.5%
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	-0.6%	1.1%
Sales representatives, services, all other	0.8%	1.7%
Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing, technical and scientific products	-0.1%	1.8%
Cargo and freight agents	0.8%	2.4%
Production, planning, and expediting clerks	-0.6%	1.3%
Refuse and recyclable material collectors	1.5%	3.2%

Source: Washington State Employment Security Department Workforce Explorer – www.workforceexplorer.com

MAJOR GREEN EMPLOYERS LOCALLY

Major Green Employers in the King County area include McKinstry, EcoFab, Sellen Construction, Optimum Energy, Sound Transit, and a variety of other employers spanning construction, energy production and maintenance, transportation, and waste reduction and management.

Industry Title	Number of Employers	Computer Specialists, All Other	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	First-Line Sprvsrs/ Mngrs of Mchncs, Inst and Reprs	Production, Planning, and Expediting Clerks	Machinists	Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technicians	Environmental Engineering Technicians
Software Publishers	36	792			43			
Aerospace Product & Parts Manufacturing	47	476	53	69	222	624	165	
Computer Systems Design and Related Services	760	898						
Commercial Goods Merchant Wholesalers	453	99		54	53		36	
Management of Companies and Enterprises	69	219		57	680			44
Automotive Repair and Maintenance	1629		1059	229				
Employment Services	443					161	282	29
Machinery & Supply Merchant Wholesalers	547		53	189	60	61	26	

Source: Washington State Employment Security Department Workforce Explorer – www.workforceexplorer.com

i. Accessible middle-wage jobs are identified as those paying at least \$21 an hour in 2008 and requiring some education beyond high school but not necessarily a 4-yr degree. \$21/hr, assuming 2 full-time earners, is equivalent to annual earnings of \$43,680 per person, \$87,903 for two earners, which is roughly the median family income for King County for 2008 (American Community Survey).

ii. March 2010 "2009 Washington State Green Economy Jobs" Washington State Employment Security Department 2009 Green Jobs Report

iii. Juliet Scarpa. April 2009. "A Growing Green Economy: Opportunities of Tomorrow." Seattle Jobs Initiative.

iv. <http://www.bls.gov/green/#definition>

v. March 2010 "2009 Washington State Green Economy Jobs" Washington State Employment Security Department 2009 Green Jobs Report.