

# Fastest Growing Industries: Green Economy

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



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## 1. Overview of the Green Economy

### Introduction

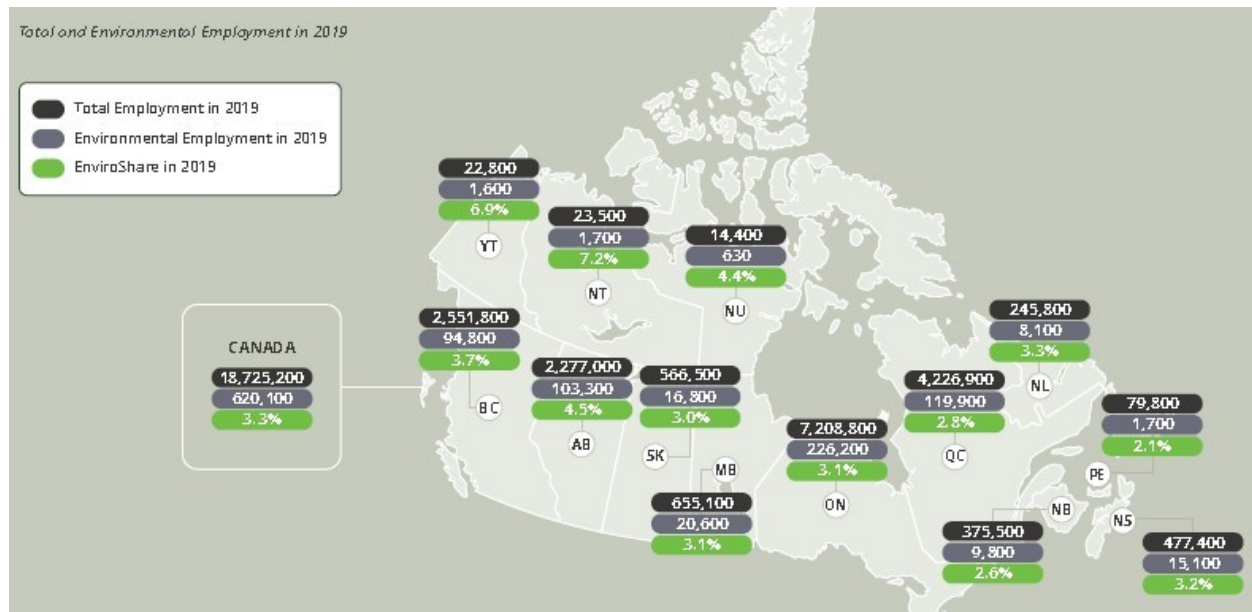
British Columbia's natural resources will continue to provide a competitive advantage in the **green economy**, especially with the province's abundance of low-carbon natural resources such as hydro, wind, wave energy and biomass.

<https://www.workbc.ca/research-labour-market/bcs-economy/green-economy>

BC is currently the fourth largest provincial employer of environmental workers in Canada, making up 15% of Canada's green workforce. By 2029, provincial employers will need to fill 35,900 net environmental job openings due to 7,600 new jobs and 28,300 retiring workers. Though the pandemic has affected every area of the economy, the outlook is more promising for the environmental sector, which is expected to rebound quicker than others.

The Eco Future <https://www.bcbusiness.ca/The-Eco-Future>

## Environmental Employment in BC in 2019



From Recession to Recovery: Environmental Jobs and Hiring Trends in the Decade Ahead September 2020 <https://www.eco.ca/research/report/environmental-labour-demand-outlook/>

**Green Economy** includes seven sub-sectors:

- Local food  
<https://www.vancouvereconomic.com/local-food/>
- Green building design and construction  
<https://www.vancouvereconomic.com/vancouver-green-buildings/>
- Green infrastructure, transportation and planning
- Sustainability services and education
- Land and water remediation and environmental consulting
- Materials management and recycling  
<https://www.vancouvereconomic.com/circular-economy/>
- Clean technology, alternative energy and green building products  
<https://www.vancouvereconomic.com/clean-tech/>
  - More than 32,000 people work in the clean energy sector in B.C. and produce about \$8 billion toward the province's GDP.

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- 25% of Canada's 'Cleantech' companies are based in Vancouver
- Approximately 70 per cent of the 200+ cleantech companies located in British Columbia (BC) are based in Metro Vancouver, employing more than 3,500 people. Metro Vancouver is also home to the world's largest hydrogen and fuel cell industry, with a 16 per cent global market share.
- Clean Energy BC identifies the following **energy subsectors**: windpower, solar, large hydro, tidal, run of river (small hydro), geothermal, biomass  
For details on the technology behind these energy sources, where they are used in BC and why they are potentially useful, see:  
<https://cleanenergybc.org/clean-energy-technologies/>  
for example: <https://cleanenergybc.org/sector/solar/>

### Environmental Job Openings to 2025



Updated: Environmental Labour Outlook to 2025, Eco Canada

<https://www.eco.ca/research/report/environmental-labour-outlook-to-2025/>

When it comes to replacement demand, the regional perspective mirrors the national outlook, *as most net hiring over the next 10 years will come from retirement.*

The majority of green jobs in BC are not new occupations but are, for the most part, created from existing occupations. They are jobs that are being re-designed to help reduce the impact of humans on the environment, to promote sustainability, and to encourage the efficient use of energy and resources. An example would be an automotive technician whose skills are shifting to include more work with hybrid and electric vehicles. B.C. is developing programs like Energy Step Code training and certification

(<https://energystepcode.ca/training/>) and Certified Retrofit Professional accreditation expanding job training for **electric and zero-emission vehicles**.

The provincial government has committed to a massive turnover of three million



fossil fuel-powered vehicles. Under the new goals, by 2025, 10 per cent of new light-duty passenger vehicle sales in B.C. will be zero-emission vehicles, increasing to 30 per cent by 2030, and 100 per cent by 2040 (see

<https://driving.ca/auto-news/news/work-from-ohm-bc-government-investing-in-ev-mechanic-training>)

### **Green Economy Development in Vancouver**

- one in 15 Vancouverites works in the green economy
- green and local food jobs represent roughly 6 per cent of all jobs in Vancouver
- Local food is the largest subsector of Vancouver's green economy
- Green building design and construction is the second-largest sector.
- the green builds sector's sophisticated and expert workforce is the largest employer in Vancouver's green economy, accounting for over 7,600 jobs

For more information on BC's green economy see:

- **Vancouver Economic Commission: Green Economy**  
<https://vancouvereconomic.com/focus/green-economy/>
- **Vancouver Economic Commission: State of Vancouver's Green Economy | 2018 Report**  
[https://storage.googleapis.com/production-vec-uploads/2018/06/State\\_of\\_Vancouver's\\_Green\\_Economy\\_2018\\_Report\\_Vancouver\\_Economic\\_Commission.compressed.pdf](https://storage.googleapis.com/production-vec-uploads/2018/06/State_of_Vancouver's_Green_Economy_2018_Report_Vancouver_Economic_Commission.compressed.pdf)
- **Vancouver Economic Commission - Green Building Design & Construction**  
<https://www.vancouvereconomic.com/vancouver-green-buildings/>
- **WorkBC: Green Economy**  
<https://www.workbc.ca/research-labour-market/bcs-economy/green-economy>
- **Clean Energy BC**  
<https://cleanenergybc.org/>
- **Clean BC**  
<https://cleanbc.gov.bc.ca/>  
[https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/climate-change/action/cleanbc/2023\\_climate\\_change\\_accountability\\_report.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/climate-change/action/cleanbc/2023_climate_change_accountability_report.pdf)

## **2. Occupations in the Green Economy**

What is a green job? A job with a focus on activities that restore or preserve environmental quality; reduce energy, materials and water consumption; decarbonize the economy; and minimize or altogether avoid the generation of all forms of waste and pollution. <https://www.vancouvereconomic.com/research/state-of-vancouver-green-economy-2018/>

All occupational sectors contribute to BC's green economy to varying degrees. A green job can be with business, nonprofit organizations, government or education. Small business, self-employment and entrepreneurship is very much a part of the new green economy. Some green jobs require specific 'green' skills or education, such as a solar engineer, an environmental educator, or an organic gardener. Other positions do not necessarily require a green background — for example a graphic designer or accountant working for a green company or organization.

Green jobs in agriculture (which include farmers and farm managers, aquaculture operators, nursery and greenhouse operators, and landscaping and ground maintenance supervisors) employ the most people in BC's green economy.

Green jobs are found in these sectors:

- Agriculture
- Construction
- Educational Services
- Energy
- Fisheries & Wildlife
- Food Services
- Forestry
- Healthcare
- Information & Culture
- Manufacturing
- Mining
- Professional Services
- Public Administration
- Recreation & Entertainment
- Retail Trade
- Transportation
- Utilities
- Waste & Lifecycle Management

New employment opportunities in the green economy include occupations such as:

- Hydrographer  
e.g. <https://eco.ca/career-profiles/hydrographer-2/>
- Energy Auditor  
e.g. <https://eco.ca/career-profiles/energy-auditor/>
- Waste Management Specialist  
e.g. <https://eco.ca/career-profiles/waste-management-specialist/>
- Sustainability Officer  
e.g. <https://eco.ca/career-profiles/sustainability-officer/>

And many others...

More information on specific careers in the green economy can be found at:

- **ECO Canada. Environmental Career Profiles**  
<https://eco.ca/career-profiles-index/>
- **Careers for a Sustainable Future. A Reference Guide to Green Jobs in British Columbia**  
[https://globe.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Reference-Guide\\_Green-Jobs.pdf](https://globe.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Reference-Guide_Green-Jobs.pdf)
- **GoodWork Canada**  
<https://www.goodwork.ca/page/what-is-a-green-job>
- **WorkBC Explore Careers**  
<https://www.workbc.ca/plan-career/explore-careers> [search by job title]



### 3. Hiring Forecast

#### Critical Shortages Anticipated in Green Occupations Across Canada

**HIGHLIGHTS**

## Critical Shortages Expected

The following occupations are projected to experience a shortage of environmental workers across Canada due to (1) wider supply/demand gaps, (2) post-secondary education pre-requisites, and (3) environmental-specific competency requirements:

 Legislators and senior management	 Electrical and electronics engineers; Aerospace engineers & Other professional engineers, n.e.c.
 Engineering inspectors and regulatory officers & Inspectors in public and environmental health and occupational health and safety; Non-destructive testers and inspection technicians	 Architects; Landscape architects; Urban and land use planners & Land surveyors
 Utilities equipment operators and controllers (incl. Water and wastewater treatment plant operators)	 Forestry technologists and technicians & Conservation and fishery officers; Agricultural and fish products inspectors
 Physical and life sciences professionals	 Managers in manufacturing and utilities
 Construction managers; Construction millwrights and industrial mechanics	 Contractors and supervisors, mining, oil and gas

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Updated: Environmental Labour Outlook to 2025

<https://eco.ca/new-reports/updated-environmental-labour-outlook-to-2025/>

The majority of jobs in BC's green economy are found in Metro Vancouver, the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island.

*Across Canada*, the environmental employment outlook is moderate at 8.1% growth from 2019 to 2029 (50,100 new jobs)—in keeping with the overall national job rate projections. Higher growth rates are expected within energy efficiency, clean and alternative energy, clean technology (cleantech), nature conservation, sustainable transportation, green building and construction, and water quality.

For more information, see:

- **Vancouver Economic Development Commission. Green Economy**  
<https://vancouvereconomic.com/focus/green-economy/>

- **Updated: Eco Canada Environmental Labour Outlook to 2025**  
<https://eco.ca/new-reports/updated-environmental-labour-outlook-to-2025/>
- **Eco Canada: From Recession to Recovery: Environmental Jobs and Hiring Trends in the Decade Ahead September 2020**  
<https://eco.ca/new-reports/environmental-labour-demand-outlook/>

## 4. Finding Jobs

### *Online Job Postings*

- **ECO Canada**  
<https://eco.ca/new-practitioners/employment-support/job-board/>
- **Indeed.com**  
<https://ca.indeed.com/>
- **BC Sustainable Energy Association Job Board**  
<https://bcsea.org/for-members/elementor-3046/> *note: for members only*
- **BC Environmental Industry Association BCEIA Job Board**  
<https://bceia.com/opportunities/>
- **GoodWork.ca**  
<https://www.goodwork.ca/jobs.php?prov=BC>
- **BioTalent Canada**  
<https://www.biotalent.ca/the-petridish/>
- **Work Cabin: Environmental Jobs in Canada**  
<https://www.workcabin.ca/>
- **Coro Strandberg Sustainability Jobs**  
<https://corostrandberg.com/resources/sustainability-jobs/>

## ***Creating a List of Potential Employers***

You can use directories to produce lists of employers in the green industry in British Columbia. Contact them directly to find out if they're hiring.

- **BC Environmental Industry Association. Membership Directory**  
<https://bceia.com/membership-directory/>
- **BC Sustainable Energy Association Membership Directory**  
<https://bcsea.org/members-directory/>
- **Eco Canada Business Directory**  
<https://eco.ca/Roster/Search>
- **Canadian Environmental Resource Guide**  
Available at the Central Library, Level 4, 363.70025 C21

## **5. Additional Resources**

Still looking for more information? Try looking at the following resources:

- **ECO Canada**  
<https://www.eco.ca/>
- **Canadian Environmental Network**  
<https://www.rcen.ca/>
- **British Columbia Environmental Industry Association**  
<https://bceia.com/>
- **British Columbia Sustainable Energy Association**  
<https://bcsea.org/>
- **WorkBC. People New to B.C.**  
<https://www.workbc.ca/plan-career/resources/people-new-bc>
- **WelcomeBC. Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants**  
<https://www.welcomebc.ca/Work-in-B-C/Career-Paths-for-Skilled-Immigrants>

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**Questions? Please ask the Information Staff at the Central Library or  
telephone 604-331-3603.**

*Please note that the information in this guide is also available online through the  
Skilled Immigrant InfoCentre website at <https://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca/>.*

