



[Centralina Economic Development District \(EDD\)](#)

Green Economy Jobs Overview

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The [Centralina Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy](#) (CEDS) champions the expansion of the regional green economy by establishing priorities and monitoring key data on clean-tech, renewable energy, and sustainable job growth. The [Green Economy Jobs Dashboard](#) serves as a vital resource for tracking employment trends and workforce demands in emerging green sectors such as sustainable manufacturing, eco-friendly transportation, and environmental services. Through a data-driven approach, the dashboard highlights labor market dynamics, aligning regional efforts with strategic goals of resilience, equity, and innovation.

The CEDS dashboard components are from the Lightcast “green jobs’ proprietary data set. [The Growth of Green Jobs](#) Lightcast blog describes why understanding the nature of a sustainable economy is relevant for employers and workers, and how these jobs serve as an opportunity for everyone and future economic success. The following describes what constitutes a “green job” and how it informs the labor market and the Centralina region.

The analysis of how “green jobs’ may impact and inform the green economy is presented [In “Green Jobs Now,” a collaboration between Lightcast and the nonprofit WorkingNation](#). The research identifies four different types of green jobs, each having a different level of impact on the green economy.

Core Green Jobs are jobs that were developed because of the transition into the green economy, and the job plays a direct role in conserving the environment. Some examples include Solar Engineers, Hydroelectric Engineers, and Energy Efficiency Specialists.

Green Enabled Jobs are jobs that are separate or tangent to the green economy but are recently seeing a demand for more green skills. For example, HVAC installers who adopt a new, energy efficient product or the mechanics developing that new system have green enabled jobs.

Green Enabling Jobs are jobs that do not necessarily require green-related skills but are housed at firms associated with the green economy, such as the marketing manager at a solar panel company.

Potential Green Jobs are jobs that currently have little relation to the green economy but may evolve to require green skills in the future. Some examples include maintenance techs and engineers.

Understanding the effect of these jobs on the labor market or what green skills are, informs how workers can be upskilled to assume green careers, and what resources can be used to initiate this upskilling. The CEDS Green Economy Jobs dashboard includes the green job posting analytics for the Centralina region and those relevant to the CEDS. Metrics such as salary information, annual



job counts, and industry job posting changes provide insights into growth trajectories and economic value. Location variables further emphasize the region's strengths compared to national benchmarks, showcasing unique opportunities for workforce development. By analyzing these data points and regional conditions, stakeholders may better understand how traditional roles are evolving to meet the demands of green industries and identify pathways for future workforce readiness.

The dashboard identifies leading occupations, industries, and certifications shaping the green economy. Top roles, such as environmental health managers and solar sales representatives, demonstrate the rising demand for skills in renewable energy and environmental compliance. By tracking credentials like Professional Engineer (PE) Licenses, OSHA certifications, and CDL licenses, the dashboard reveals the qualifications most valued by employers, enabling educational institutions and training programs to align their offerings with industry needs. Additionally, the prominence of soft skills such as communication, project management, and leadership highlight the holistic competencies required for success in green sectors.

The Lightcast research indicates a continuation in the rise in green jobs and predicts further growth in the years to come. Employers can prepare by identifying fast-growing green skills and providing training for them, and by providing competitive pay for green jobs that require new skills. Understanding these trends and investing accordingly may create an environment where green jobs enable success for businesses, opportunity for workers, and a better future for the environment.

Lastly, the CEDS Green Economy Jobs dashboard provides a clear view of the education and experience levels sought by employers. By analyzing job postings, the dashboard identifies trends in hiring practices, showcasing the roles that require higher education versus those accessible to mid-level or entry-level workers. Such insights empower workforce developers, policymakers, and employers to make data-informed decisions, fostering inclusive opportunities in the green economy while advancing sustainable economic initiatives across the Centralina region.