

MICHIGAN GREEN JOBS REPORT 2009 -- HIGHLIGHTS

The May 2009 Michigan Green Jobs Report is the **first effort of its kind for Michigan** and makes us the second state (after Washington) to release a scientific survey of green jobs. This report covers *private sector* jobs in Michigan's green economy, which we define as being comprised of **five areas**: (1) agriculture and natural resource conservation; (2) clean transportation and fuels; (3) increased energy efficiency; (4) pollution prevention or environmental cleanup; and (5) renewable energy production.

- ✓ Michigan boasts **109,067 private sector green jobs**: 96,767 direct green jobs (people directly involved in generating a firm's green-related products or services) and 12,300 green support jobs (anyone from a janitor to an accountant whose job is created to serve direct green work).
- ✓ Clean transportation and fuels is the largest green economy area in Michigan, comprising just over 40% of green jobs and reflecting Michigan's automotive heritage. If Michigan succeeds in developing alternative fuel, hybrid and electric vehicles, this sector may grow significantly.
- ✓ There is **huge potential for growth** throughout the green economy. Today, green jobs represent just 3% of Michigan's overall private sector employment of 3.2 million.
- ✓ Indeed, from 2005 to 2008, a sample of 358 green related firms added more than 2,500 jobs to Michigan's economy, an **employment expansion rate of 7.7%** -- compared to the total Michigan average of *negative* 5.4%.
- ✓ Among the **renewable energy production** firms in that sample, the growth rate hit 30%. Renewable energy production, which today is the smallest green sector, may be the fastest growing.
- ✓ The green economy appears to be a hotbed of **entrepreneurial activity**. Among our sample of 358 green-related firms, over 70 appeared to be newly created since 2005, accounting for nearly 600 jobs already.
- ✓ **Green jobs tend to pay well**. Thirteen of the top 15 sectors of green employment have weekly wages above the overall private sector weekly average.
- ✓ Green jobs encompass a **wide range of occupations**. Engineering and construction jobs are prominent, but many other jobs of all skill levels are required by the green economy.
- ✓ **Education and training** are key for green employers. In multiple focus groups, employers emphasized the need for basics in math and reading with additional skills to be acquired on-the-job or in school depending on the precise green job in question.

Local, state and federal public policy may drive further growth in green jobs. Laws such as Michigan's new renewable energy standard, the requirement that regulated utilities spend a portion of revenue on energy efficiency measures for their customers, and incentives for advanced battery production, in combination with local and federal initiatives, may accelerate the growth of green jobs in Michigan.

For more information, or to download the full report, visit www.michigan.gov