BLS Green Jobs Initiative

- People are asking
  - What’s a green job?
  - How many are there?
  - Is the number growing?
  - Are these good jobs?

- As the chief source of data on jobs, BLS is working on ways to provide answers
BLS Green Jobs Initiative

- President’s 2010 budget requests funding for BLS to develop new data on green jobs

- Goal is to provide information on:
  - Number of green jobs and trends over time
  - Industrial, occupational, and geographic distribution of these jobs
  - What these jobs pay and what education they require
What we have done so far...

- Reviewed the literature
  - To understand issues such as renewable energy, energy conservation, and greenhouse gas abatement
  - To examine definitions and measurement approaches developed by others
  - O*NET green jobs study
  - State surveys and studies
  - Studies by other private and public organizations
What we have done so far...

- Learned from State green jobs studies
  - Surveys in California, Michigan, Oregon, Washington
  - Analytical studies in Connecticut, Michigan, New York
- “Understanding the Green Economy” web site:
  - [http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/?pageid=1032](http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/?pageid=1032)
What we have done so far...

- Consulted with stakeholders
  - To gain better understanding of green economic activities and production processes from experts
  - Federal agencies: Energy, EPA, and others
  - Industry associations
Measurement approach

- Work within existing classifications
  - North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)
  - Standard Occupational Classification (SOC)
- Leverage existing surveys, methods, and data
  - Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages - Annual Refiling Survey
  - Occupational Employment Statistics survey
What’s a green job?

- Green economic activity
  - Economic activities that preserve or improve the natural environment
- Green jobs are jobs related to performing green economic activities
What’s a green job?

- Broad categories of green economic activity
  - Generating energy from renewable sources
  - Increasing energy efficiency
  - Preventing, reducing, and cleaning up pollution
  - Providing environmental support services
  - Environmental regulation by government
What’s a green job?

What industries perform green economic activities?

- Produce green products or services
- Produce a specialized input to production of a green product or service (e.g., wind turbine blades)
- Principle input is an identifiable green product or service (e.g., sell organic food)
- Exclude activities where “green practices” are incidental to main activity
What’s a green job?

Industry example: Wind Energy Production

- Develop the technology (professional, scientific, and technical services)
- Produce the turbines, blades (manufacturing)
- Sell the turbines, blades (wholesale trade)
- Build the wind farm (construction)
- Operate the wind farm (utilities)
What’s a green job?

- Occupations: What workers perform green economic activities?
  - Workers who perform tasks that contribute directly to the performance of green economic activities
  - “Contribute directly” versus support activities
What’s a green job?

- Occupation example: Wind Energy Production
  - Develop the technology (engineering occupations)
  - Produce the turbines, blades (production occupations)
  - Sell the turbines, blades (sales occupations)
  - Build the wind farm (construction occupations)
  - Operate the wind farm (management, engineering, and maintenance occupations)
What’s next?

- Congressional action on FY2010 budget
- Finalize green jobs definition for review with stakeholders
- During FY2010, develop data collection methods and begin collecting industry data
- During FY2011, begin collecting occupational data and publishing industry data