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Green Homes Mean Green Jobs, and More of Them

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If you believe that supporting the fossil fuel economy creates more jobs, think again. Study after study has proven recently that there are millions of *new* green jobs to be had in the new economy, many of which can be seen in the sustainable construction and building retrofit industries.

Take for instance a recent McGraw-Hill Construction report ([2013 Dodge Construction Green Outlook report](#)) which shows substantial growth in the sustainable construction industry. Despite a sluggish several years for the construction sector since the economic slowdown of 1008, the green building industry has seen growth year over year: from \$10 billion in 2005 to \$85 billion in 2012 and an anticipated \$248 billion in 2016. The sustainable residential construction sector is expected to grow by up to 38% by 2016. Further, 35% of construction jobs are related to green buildings in some way. And that will only grow as the industry explodes as it is expected to.

As Harvey M. Bernstein, vice president of Industry Insights and Alliances for McGraw-Hill Construction pointed out, “Not only does this mean a strong outlook for green building, but also the benefits that go along with that: more jobs, greater financial benefits from green and high performance buildings, stronger competitive positioning for those firms that build green, and healthier work and learning environments for our population.”

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Another interesting report by the US Green Building Council (USGBC) called [A New Retrofit Industry](#) shows that President Obama's [Better Building Initiative](#) (BBI) will create 114,000 jobs, 77,000 of which would be in the building retrofit industry. The types of jobs identified as increasing because of government incentives like BBI include:

- Lighting manufacturing and installation,
 - Heating, ventilating, and air conditioning equipment manufacturing and installation,
 - Water heating manufacturing and installation,
 - Motors and drives manufacturing and installation,
 - Office equipment (computers, copiers, telephones, etc) manufacturing and installation,
 - Control system manufacturing and installation,
 - Building envelope component (windows, doors, insulation, roofing, paints, coatings, etc)
 - Building operations, maintenance and commissioning.
-
- manufacturing and installation,

The BBI is just one initiative that is creating jobs. There are dozens of other government programs in both the US and Canada that are benefiting the employment market.

So while any home you build will support job growth, choosing green house plans will help to support more sustainable jobs in a market that's currently seeing unprecedented expansion. That's good news for local economies and good news for the planet.

To see more of the benefits of green jobs, check out the full [JobVine infographic](#) seen above. Second image via Flickr: [BAKOKO](#).



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