



## Join us for other events this week!

Wednesday, December 2, 7:30-9 p.m.

### **“No Impact Man”: An Evening with Colin Beavan**

Pogue Student Center Multipurpose Room

Thursday, December 3, 4:30-7:30 p.m.

### **Green Energy Fair**

Pogue Student Center Multipurpose Room

Thursday, December 3, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

### **Green Energy Workshops**

Pogue Student Center's Rooms 303A, B, C & 310

Friday, December 4, 11 am-2 p.m.

### **Green Cars / Hybrid Test Drives**

Pogue Student Center parking lot (meet in the Pogue Lobby).

Tuesday to Thursday, December 1-3, 5 p.m. & Friday, December 4, 6 p.m.

### **“FUEL” the movie**

Pogue Student Center Scot Theater



## GREEN JOB PANEL

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

A **green job**, also called a **green-collar job** is, according to the United Nations Environment Program, "work in agricultural, manufacturing, research and development (R&D), administrative, and service activities that contribute(s) substantially to preserving or restoring environmental quality.

Specifically, but not exclusively, this includes jobs that help to protect ecosystems and biodiversity; reduce energy, materials, and water consumption through high efficiency strategies; de-carbonize the economy; and minimize or altogether avoid generation of all forms of waste and pollution."

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This evenings' program made possible by the generosity of...

**National Fuel**



## Green Jobs—What They Are and What You Need to Know to Get One

It's hard not to read an article about careers and job opportunities these days without seeing mention of "green jobs." Many states have been conducting studies on the effects of green jobs and how these new career opportunities can help revive their sagging economies. It seems to be a win-win type of career opportunity that is attracting interest from people in many different fields.

Contrary to some myths that say that green-collar jobs are only for professionals like scientists and researchers, the reality is that companies with a green focus need workers with skills similar to those in conventional businesses, including accountants, marketing experts, sheet metal workers and service technicians.

The Center for Energy Workforce Development predicts that the largest number of green jobs will be those that require a professional certificate, an apprenticeship, or a year or two of post-secondary education to teach the basic industry fundamentals as well as specific skills for green jobs.

While there will be many opportunities for workers with trade and professional skills to move into "green" occupations, there will also be many opportunities in the coming year for people specializing in renewable energy and energy-efficiency careers. A 2009 report from the American Solar Energy Society on green-collar jobs estimates that there are about nine million green-color jobs in the U.S. today and many more being created. In fact, renewable energy and energy efficiency jobs have created an industry with more than one trillion dollars in revenue in 2007 – more than the combined sales of the three largest U.S. corporations. In addition, a recent federal stimulus package worth tens of billions of dollars will help generate a number of new jobs in the coming years.

So how do you get started with a green job? Start by asking yourself what type of work you enjoy doing. Do you like to work in an office or on a job site? With computers and technical equipment, or with tools and your hands?

Check your local newspaper, specialized publications and web sites in your field of interest and look for workshops, classes, articles or other educational materials. Talk to people at your local community college or university to find out if they offer courses in the field. Look into certificate programs or on-the-job training opportunities.

It's going to take thousands of workers at all job levels to turn our country's economy into a green one, with a healthier environment and reduced use of energy. There are jobs out there now, and many more will be needed in the future. It appears that the way to get into the field is to develop skills and expertise in the type of work you like to do, then supplement this with additional training in a specialized area.

One other thing to keep in mind. Many of today's energy industry workers are within 10 years of retiring, opening up a tremendous number of job opportunities for young people with an interest to work in the field. With the basic skills and specialized knowledge needed to operate power plants, design wind turbines, help improve the electric grid and use other technical skills, you can be on the road to improve the country's infrastructure while modernizing our energy technologies.

*Reprinted from Career Currents — a publication of The NEED Project. (www.need.org)*

## Green Job Panel

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