



# Workers Employed in Green Jobs

Green jobs are jobs that contribute to greater environmental quality. While some green jobs require advanced skills, careers in the green jobs sector can begin at an entry level and can provide a pathway out of poverty for some workers. Employment opportunities include weatherizing homes, retrofitting commercial buildings and private homes, conducting energy audits on businesses and residences, installing wind and solar panels, and manufacturing energy saving products. Many workers entering this field for the first time are likely to earn incomes that qualify them for the EIC and CTC. Since the tax credits provide such valuable support for employees, it is important to inform workers entering new green job employment about the availability of the EIC, CTC and free tax filing assistance.



In 2010, Central Jersey Community Development Corporation (CJCDC) in Somerset, New Jersey received a grant through the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development to provide a Green Job Training Partnership Program. This 12-week program prepared participants for entry-level employment as an Energy Efficiency Assistant or Air Sealing Technician. During program orientation, the service coordinator presented different services that CJCDC offers, including money management classes, housing counseling, job placement services, and free tax filing assistance. Participants were encouraged to use CJCDC's VITA site. For seven years CJCDC has served as a VITA site and promotes its services through local churches, social service agencies, grocery stores, and drug stores. In 2010, CJCDC filed 83 tax returns returning more than \$100,000 in refunds to the community.

**Contact:** *Carla Beverly, CJCDC, (732) 247-0444 or [cbeverly@fbcdc.com](mailto:cbeverly@fbcdc.com).*

## Strategies

- Work with employers in green industries to inform workers, as well as customers of green products and services, about the tax credits. Encourage them to include envelope stuffers with employee paychecks or distribute flyers to inform employees about the EIC and CTC. Train supervisors to deliver information and answer questions about the tax credits and VITA for employees, especially new hires. Offer to speak about the tax credits during an information session for employees.
- Enlist green jobs training programs to share tax credit information when participants enroll. Training sites that have financial aid offices — such as programs at community colleges — can display posters and provide flyers in waiting areas. Financial aid counselors can also communicate information about the tax credits to participants requesting help in paying for their training. If online registration is available, send an email to new registrants about the tax credits and where to find free tax filing assistance.
- Encourage agencies referring participants to green jobs training programs to promote the tax credits. For example, job seekers often visit One-Stop Career Centers to find information about employment and training opportunities. By promoting the tax credits and free tax services, these centers can show job seekers how to make their participation more feasible.

- Partner with organizations involved in green services such as home retrofitting or energy audits that cater to low-income individuals and inform them about the benefits of the EIC and CTC for their workers and clients. Invite them to join your outreach efforts and provide them with outreach materials.
- Coordinate a free tax filing assistance day at a job training program or business.
- If your organization hosts a VITA site, invite green businesses and job programs to set up a booth to promote green jobs and training opportunities.

## **FACT:**

*The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provided funding for the investment in green jobs. With approximately \$40 billion directed towards energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, including \$500 million for job training programs, more than two million new and current green collar workers will be able to find pathways to careers and higher paying jobs within the next few years.*



**Find It On the Web** [www.eitcoutreach.org](http://www.eitcoutreach.org)

**Links to Green Jobs Organizations**

**Fact Sheet on Engaging Green Jobs Employers & Training Programs in Tax Credit Outreach—Why It's Important**