

ONS's Measuring "Green Jobs" project

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Background: why measure ‘green’ jobs?

- Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution: support up to 250,000 green jobs in 2030
- [Green Jobs Taskforce report](#): “Every job has the potential to become ‘green’ as the world moves to combat climate change”
- [Skidmore review](#): “government should swiftly develop robust regional green jobs statistics (ideally at local authority level, at least for England), breakdowns of green jobs considering protected characteristics, and publish information about salary levels, to monitor the just transition”

Lots of interest, with growing stakeholder demand and engagement

Policy and research questions

Definitions and measurement

- * How can we measure green jobs? Number by industry, location etc

Job and employee characteristics

- * What skills will be required in future for green jobs through retraining and education?

Structural change

- * Does a decline in un-green jobs result in a corresponding increase in green jobs, or a shift to neutral jobs, or lost jobs?

Vacancies

- * Are new green jobs being created or are existing jobs 'greening'?

Costs and benefits

- * How do green jobs impact the competitiveness and productivity of an industry and/or vice versa?

Background: why measure green jobs?

- Lots of interest, with growing stakeholder demand and engagement
- Measurement challenges such as a lack of one single definition and limited data availability → leads to a mix of definitions and measures being used

Estimates can vary significantly depending on definition and method:

- 2019, ONS, [Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Economy](#), 205,400 FTE
- 2019, LSE, [“Are Green Jobs Good?”](#) (2021), 12% of employment “directly green” (approx. 4 million) .

ONS's contribution to “green jobs”

- ONS produces 2 official estimates that fall under the umbrella “green jobs”:
 - Annual Environmental Goods and Services Sector (EGSS) estimates [of employment in the UK](#) using the [United Nations System of Environmental Economic Accounting](#) definition of 17 relevant activities
 - Estimates of employment from the [Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Economy \(LCREE\) survey](#) focused on 17 sectors which are deemed to be low carbon and/or related to renewable energy
- [Article](#) and [blog](#) on the challenges of defining a green job including discussion of different definitions

Green Jobs Project

ONS awarded funding by HM Treasury under the Economic Data Innovation Fund (EDIF) to define and measure green jobs.

Expected outcomes of the project:

2022

- A user engagement exercise and an analysis of the responses

2023

- a clear definition or definitions of green jobs
- experimental statistics measuring green jobs, using these definitions
- initial analytical outputs
- a work programme for embedding statistics into standard output cycles

Engagement

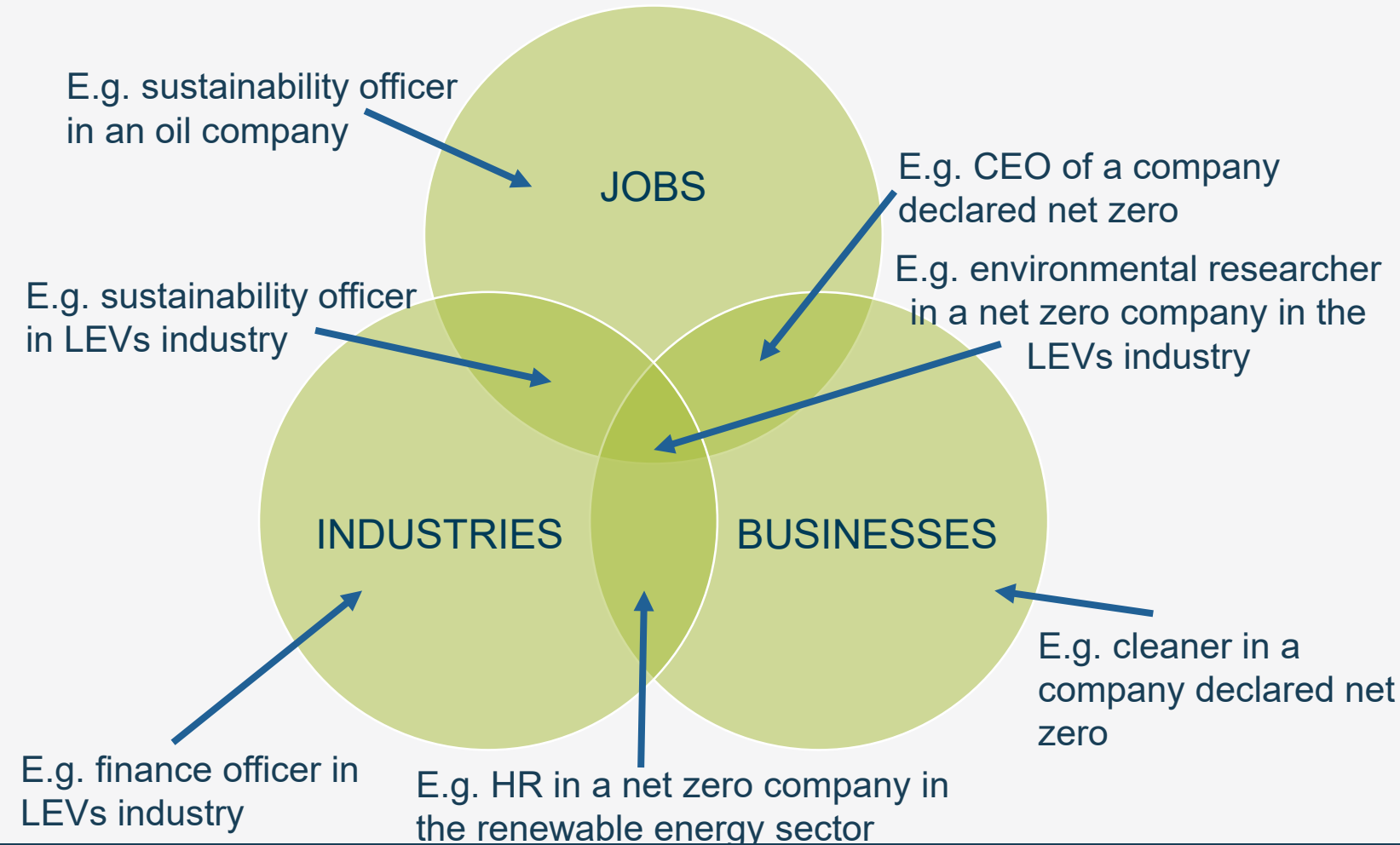
Engagement exercise and workshop

Engagement exercise - questions

Ran between Thursday 11 August and Thursday 6 October 2022, asking:

- Current and/or expected uses of the data
- Preferred choice of three existing definitions (EGSS, ILO and GJ Taskforce)
- Ranking three approaches (industry, occupation or firm based) to framing
- Ranking further breakdowns of estimates (demographic, geographic and quality)
- Other environmental topics or themes of interest

A note on framing



Green jobs – All jobs that support or contribute towards environmental goals

Green industries – All employment in low carbon or green industries

Green businesses – All employment in ‘net zero’ businesses, and/or with e.g. published emissions reduction commitments

Response to engagement exercise

- Over 100 responses
- Green Jobs task force most popular definition
Occupational approach most preferred
- Geographical breakdown ranked highest
- Preferences varied by type of responder
- Full results can be found here: [Defining and measuring green jobs - Office for National Statistics - Citizen Space \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

The favoured definitions

Green Jobs Taskforce (58%)

“Employment in an activity that directly contributes to - or indirectly supports - the achievement of the UK's net zero emissions target and other environmental goals, such as nature restoration and mitigation against climate risks.” [Green Jobs Taskforce, convened by the Departments for Education and Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.]

International Labour Organization (30%)

“Decent jobs that contribute to preserve or restore the environment, be they in traditional sectors such as manufacturing and construction, or in new, emerging green sectors such as renewable energy and energy efficiency.”

Further engagement

- Held successful workshop in January to discuss green jobs definition
 - Over 100 attendees, lots of discussion, excellent feedback about the event
 - Discussions around impact of job, quality, direct and in-direct jobs
- Bilaterals with key users, presented at various groups (e.g. subgroup of green jobs task force)
- Published an [update](#) on 13th March, including our definition and proposed future work

Definition

Definition and next steps

Definition and Next Steps

Following substantial stakeholder engagement, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) defines a green job as:

Employment in an activity that contributes to protecting or restoring the environment, including those that mitigate or adapt to climate change.

We will [now develop a detailed framework](#) to underpin this definition and to provide guidelines to measure green jobs. We will be engaging with stakeholders to help shape this framework

Alongside our [short-term objectives](#), our long-term plans include incorporating green jobs questions into Office for National Statistics (ONS) surveys, and developing our [existing estimates related to green jobs](#)

Main development

- Developing a framework to underpin the definition
- Developing a list of key words to help identify whether employment activity is green
- Using our Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) to inform the development of our green jobs statistics
- Developing green jobs outputs (experimental)
- Looking to incorporate green jobs questions into other Office for National Statistics Surveys (ONS)

Analytical work

- Exploring census data using our identified keywords, to understand whether these appear in job title data reported
- Exploring census data considering occupations likely to be subject to “greening”
- Matching our Annual Business Survey and Business Register Employment Survey data to our Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Economy Survey (LCREE) data to explore whether LCREE jobs are replacing existing jobs
- Assessing whether industries with green jobs have higher or lower greenhouse gas emissions, and whether and how this has changed over time

Key challenges

- Agreement on specifics of green jobs framework
- Needs vary by user
- Classification system not set up for measuring green jobs
- Most jobs are partly green
- Challenging concept for data collection

Relevant publications

[The challenges of defining a “green job”](#)

[Research into green jobs: time spent doing green tasks, UK, 1997 to 2019](#)

[Nature jobs using environmental goods and services sector data: 2019](#)

[Comparing environmental economy estimates, UK](#)

[Environmental Goods and Services Sector \(EGSS\) Estimates](#)

[Exploring regional estimates of activity in the low carbon and renewable energy economy, UK and regions of England: 2020](#)

[Defining and Measuring Green Jobs Survey](#)

[Low carbon and renewable energy economy, UK: 2021](#)

[“Green jobs” update, current and upcoming work: March 2023](#)

Questions

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