



## Green Jobs 101: Opportunities and Challenges

### What is a Green Job?

- Good for the environment: transitions us away from polluting fossil fuels.
- Includes health insurance, retirement and benefits. Strengthens middle class.
- Provides lifelong, skilled career training.

### Examples of Green Jobs IBEW Local 569 Has Been Doing and is Trained to Do

- Building high speed rail systems
- Installing solar panels and building wind farms
- Retrofitting buildings to maximize energy efficiency
- Our skilled workers are trained for new green technologies that we don't even know yet exist!

### From a Union Perspective: Important Distinction between a “Job” and a “Career”

A green job can be many different types of *occupations*, but in order to sustain workers and families with a middle-class quality of life, we need the new green economy to usher in **green careers** that offer a ladder to economic stability, security and opportunity.

### A Better Description for “Green Jobs” is Actually “Green Union Career”

- IBEW Local 569 members are highly trained with the skills to build the green economy.
- Union careers are strong, middle class jobs that afford a good quality of life.
- Union careers have health care, benefits and pension retirement programs.
- Many unions, including Local 569, have been doing “green jobs” for decades.

### Opportunity and Challenge: Growth and Scope of Green Industry

- **Our Opportunity:** with the new Obama Administration and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus money), green industries are growing rapidly.
- **Our Challenge:** ensure stimulus dollars and green industry growth are retaining and creating union careers. These by definition pay well, have benefits, provide skilled training and offer career paths.

### IBEW Local 569: Taking the Lead in Connecting Stimulus Dollars with Union Careers

- Hired full-time staff to research funding, build partnerships and advocate for Local 569 jobs.
- Working with community, environmental and other partners to develop ideas and maximize funding.

### How Can Elected Leaders Help Ensure Green Jobs are IBEW Local 569 Union Careers?

- Support Project Stabilization Agreements (PSA) for stimulus-funded and other green projects.
- Support legislation ensuring electrical work is done by C10 contractors and certified electricians.
- Support legislation ensuring journey-level workers graduate from joint apprenticeship programs.

*To learn more about how IBEW Local 569 is creating the next generation of clean energy leaders, please contact Micah at 858-569-8900 or [mmitrosky@ibew569.org](mailto:mmitrosky@ibew569.org)*