



O*NET goes “green”

The “green” landscape is still growing in the world of work. To keep up with this growth, the U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Information Network (O*NET) Resource Center now highlights the green economy.

The O*NET Resource Center (www.onetcenter.org) provides online access to the O*NET database, career exploration tools, and more. In a downloadable report, green occupations are grouped into three categories: green increased demand occupations, green enhanced skills occupations, and green new and emerging occupations.

This new green focus has also been incorporated into O*NET OnLine, which gives jobseekers and career counselors a method for exploring detailed descriptions of work in green jobs. For example, in a new green occupations box on the O*NET OnLine home page, the Search button provides links for browsing occupations by sector, and the Learn More button links to information about green economy sectors, green occupations, ongoing activities, and online searches.

For details, see the O*NET Resource Center’s green economy information at www.onetcenter.org/green.html or O*NET OnLine at <http://online.onetcenter.org>.

2010 SOC available

Attention, occupational title enthusiasts: The 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) is here! The SOC is used by Federal statistical agencies and covers all jobs in the economy.

The 2010 SOC reflects updates and revisions to the 2000 SOC, which in turn reflect changes in the economy. Adding and combining occupational titles increased the number of detailed occupations from 821 to 840. Examples of new titles are Web developers, community health workers, hearing aid specialists, genetic counselors, and solar photovoltaic installers. (To learn more about the latter occupation, see “You’re a *what?* Solar photovoltaic installer,” in the Fall 2009 *OOQ* and online at www.bls.gov/ooq/2009/fall/yawhat.pdf.) More than 450 definitions were revised, and 9 occupations shifted from one major group to another.

And as the economy evolves, further SOC updates will be necessary. Work on the 2018 SOC is expected to begin in 2013. Detailed information about the 2010 SOC system—including explanations of its structure, principles, coding guidelines, and the revision process—is available online at www.bls.gov/soc. You may also contact the SOC Policy Committee, 2 Massachusetts Avenue NE., Suite 2135, Washington, D.C. 20212; call the SOC information line at (202) 691-6500; or email SOC@bls.gov.





Job market looking up for college grads?

The college class of 2010 can be a little more hopeful about the job market. Recent results from a National Association of Colleges and Employers poll show improving expectations for recruiting and hiring college graduates over the next few months.

The poll measures fluctuations in employers' short-term expectations for recruiting and hiring college grads. Each of the two activities receives its own score. Poll results are reported as a score between 0 and 200; scores below 100 indicate an expected drop in recruitment or hiring, a score of 100 indicates no expected change, and a score above 100 indicates an expected increase. The hiring score for December 2009 rose to about 98 from about 87 in October and November 2009. In addition, the recruiting activity score increased to about 95 in December—from about 90 in November and 93 in October.

For more information about this or other studies by the association, write to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, 62 Highland Avenue, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18017; call toll free, 1 (800) 544-5272; or visit its Web site, www.naceweb.org.

STEM opportunities through the Energy Department

If you want a career in science, technology, engineering, or math, take a look at what the U.S. Department of Energy has to offer. Its Office of Science Workforce Development for Teachers and Scientists provides opportunities to teachers and students of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

This development office offers several internships, fellowships, and programs. Each targets a different group of students and teachers. For example, paid internships for undergraduates place students in research laboratories; graduate and faculty fellowships provide financial support and professional development opportunities for STEM teachers and faculty; and activities for middle and high school students and teachers, such as the National Science Bowl, encourage scientific and technical study.

For information about these programs, including application procedures, write to the Office of Workforce Development for Teachers and Scientists, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, D.C. 20585; call (202) 586-5000; email The.Secretary@hq.doe.gov; or visit the office's Web site online at www.scied.science.doe.gov/scied/sci_ed.htm.

