

1st Prize Winner

How can Young People be Better Supported to Thrive in Green Jobs?

By Ahel Saha, aged 9 (UK)

We're increasingly recognising that it is important to create green jobs and provide relevant training for young people. A Green job is a job that helps in preserving or restoring the environment of our planet, and provides a carbon and resource efficient economy. Green jobs will provide a sustainable future, by combating reasons causing harm to our planet, like climate change, environmental degradation, reduction in natural resources and endangerment of many species, which lead to change in our ecosystem and are not helping us thrive on this planet.

The green jobs could be in traditional sectors such as manufacturing or newer industries like renewable energy. There may be several ways to support the young people from the early years and continue throughout their educational years through collaboration of school, parents and community.

Early years and primary school: It's important to educate young children about our changing environment and its impact on our lives. The primary school children can be encouraged to participate in planning and executing green projects within the school environment and within their communities. Having a school garden as a focus would motivate the young learners.

High school: Their education will be extended to learning about theories of sustainable living and planning for green jobs. This can be achieved through teaching STEM with focus on environmental engineering, training sessions for interested students into green technologies, encouragement in creative entrepreneurship, participation in voluntary work, to understand and appreciate the scale of the problem. It is important to improve parental education into prospects of newer and green jobs, which will support the young people when deciding their prospective professions.

University and apprenticeship: With collaboration between the government, charitable organisations and universities, it is possible to create an environment to support young people to study and prepare for green jobs in their near future. Alongside expanding access to new subjects like environment and ecology, global sustainability, conservation science, atmospheric science, history of conservation and green technology, environmental engineering, carbon policing, environmental law and economics, and many more, they can be placed for apprenticeships and taster sessions to understand the green jobs and dive deep into some of the theories behind them. Making links between school and work places is really important.

Without going green the world could become one big ocean and become a desolate wasteland on the seabed, an example that happened recently is a massive flood in Pakistan. Raising awareness and supporting the young people to thrive in the green jobs is the future to save our earth from an untimely destruction. We must all act now and work together to encourage young people to succeed in the green jobs of the future.

2nd Prize

Green jobs and us

By Aadhyaa Aravind Shankar, aged 8 (India)

In my eight years, I've seen summers getting hotter, untimely rains becoming common and glaciers melting at an alarming rate. It scares me when scientists say that several cities and countries will be submerged within decades. Therefore, of all the things that had to be done yesterday, transition to a clean, green and sustainable way of life tops my list.

Green jobs offer one solution to environmental problems. To me, a green job is one that saves the environment by harnessing natural energy sources. Applying a green lens to existing industries is the first step. At school, a sewage treatment plant treats waste water, which is reused for gardening and flushing. A compost pit converts discarded food to manure used for gardening. Solar panels address a significant part of my school's electricity needs. These activities are managed by people who aren't teachers. If schools can generate such green jobs, so can offices, hospitals, airports and big housing complexes.

My awareness of green jobs comes from school where exposure to green activities is a part of our curriculum. Unfortunately, not all children have such exposure. Therefore, the Education Ministry must update school curricula so that all children are aware of green jobs and their importance. High schools must offer hands-on training on various aspects of green jobs as part of experiential learning. This will help us identify and pursue our areas of interest and passion at college. Specialized courses introduced in colleges must result in employment into green jobs.

Governments at various levels must promote green jobs by providing incentives to businesses that introduce a green lens to their existing operations. This will encourage them to create and sustain more green jobs. Once more industries have green jobs, the demand for people with these skills will go up which will then lead to competitive pay, and challenging and interesting work. Like every other field, the field of green jobs too must attract and retain top talent. Apart from good pay, autonomy at work and freedom and funding for research and development is essential. As part of Corporate Social Responsibility drives, big conglomerates must invite ideas from students and youth which hold potential to be converted into green businesses. Practical and sustainable ideas can be chosen from the submissions, and grants and mentorship can be provided to the idea submitters, thus encouraging entrepreneurship.

Creating a technologically advanced future without destroying our planet depends on developing green jobs today. Hence, it is in our collective interest that we, the youth of the world, up-skill and prepare ourselves to save the one earth that we have through green jobs. Remember - the only true gift we can give our future generations is a clean, green and healthy earth!

Joint 3rd Prize

How can young people be better supported to thrive in green jobs?

By Jeremy Zhang, aged 9 (UK)

I am writing about green jobs because there are not enough green jobs and not enough people working in this field or supporting them. Parts of the world are experiencing extreme weather and awful air quality. I believe that young people can help make the planet a better place. To reach that, we need to teach more young people about green jobs and make them aware of what is currently going on. Teaching people from a young age is important.

One of my main ideas is to encourage teachers around the world to start teaching about green jobs and global warming. We need to take care of our planet and start making changes. One way to do that and give people a job at the same time is using green jobs. We can also use more entertaining methods like video games to teach kids about green jobs as some kids are clearly more interested in games than lessons. Apart from thinking about young people, we also need to think more about creating new green jobs. For example:

- Carbon extraction expert: Scientists who are focused on extracting Carbon Dioxide and other greenhouse gases from the atmosphere and using ways that will not create more greenhouse gases to do so.
- Eco transport designer: Scientists and engineers who are trying to make greener vehicles potentially using reused and recycled materials.

There are a lot of other ideas, do you remember about the green job video games that I mentioned? We could use that as a green job, coding green job games using green computers. Now, back to young people we have more space for new ideas in our heads. Also we are still learning and we can make a difference now! To help us, adults need to be more supportive and not just teach but make green job environments a friendlier place. This way we can fit in perfectly and make the planet a better place. If younger people are welcome into green jobs they can help everyone around them but they first need help getting a green jobs and having experience to work in them. Visiting places of work to be inspired and having talks in school would be useful.

In conclusion, teachers should teach about green jobs, adults should make room for young people to come into green jobs and we need to have more green jobs. The government could have a department to work on this issue.

Thank you for reading and I hope green jobs will start appearing everywhere so that we can all benefit from them. The planet certainly needs us to put our minds on this area as soon as possible.

Joint 3rd Prize

How might young people be better supported to thrive in green jobs?

By Esther Ibukun Oyinboade, aged 9 (Nigeria)

The economy in Nigeria and many developing countries is not a green one. In-fact, Nigeria operates a Brown Economy which is created by and dependent on fossil fuel. This is our primary source of revenue. We operate a high carbon economy and do not manage our resources efficiently.

Growing up in this kind of economy: I am concerned about limited employment opportunities after I leave school. I am tired of the noise pollution and harmful gases released by our power generators which uses fossil fuel. I fear eating fishes caught from local water bodies because they are contaminated by oils spills and industrial waste.

The solution to these problems lies in my country moving towards a green economy and supporting young people like myself to thrive in green jobs.

Firstly, Government should: Promote awareness through setting up of green job fairs where young people can explore opportunities relating to green jobs.

Government can upskill youths and sponsor youth entrepreneurs that provide renewable energy sources like solar panels and biomass materials. Government can equip unemployed youths from disadvantaged areas and encourage them to go into waste collection businesses and jobs for recycling plants.

Government should keep supporting youths to go into businesses and projects that focus on afforestation in rural areas and planting of trees in urban settlements. Government should set aside a percentage of the budget to drive youth initiatives towards a green economy.

Secondly, by partnership between Businesses and Schools: Businesses can make green jobs more attractive by making them high paying roles. They can partner with schools to sponsor environmental awareness campaigns and business challenges where we can come up with entrepreneurial ideas.

Schools should include more environmental studies into the curriculum and make the lessons fun! Young people love learning when it is fun.

Schools can set up environmental clubs to promote discussions and ideas about creating a green economy. For example, in the last brainstorming session in my school, we imagined a technology to convert the Carbon Oxides generated from car exhausts to Oxygen and less harmful gases, just like what takes place during photosynthesis. Hence, buying a car will be synonymous to planting a tree. If chanced, this is a project I would like to work on. I will call it a "photosynthetic car". It will provide transportation and help the environment. This will be highly beneficial to an oil income dependent country like Nigeria. This research can be sponsored with grants from businesses.

Finally, I will promote proper waste disposal initiative in my school. I am now organising a waste management group. For me, my green career and contribution to the environment does not start in the future, IT STARTS NOW!

4th Prize

How can young people be better supported to thrive in green jobs?

By Nathan Raenn Hombre, aged 11 (Philippines)

Hello, my name is Nathan, and I am from Gen Z! Many young people are protesting against the world's response to climate change. How can we keep solving this issue when we get jobs? Oddly, Gen Z wants to stop climate change yet we do not believe we can help with green jobs!

My solution is more education! Public education about jobs like being green mechanics, engineers, or recyclers can greatly affect our battle against climate change. It is especially important that people in rural areas get better access to this education so there are green jobs both in cities and provinces. Teaching more young adults about green jobs would boost their confidence in fighting climate change!

I also suggest a charity that partly funds public education for the government. The charity will apply to teachers, students and the funding for green programs. It will spread awareness about the issues of climate change, green jobs not being available, and the relationship between climate change and green jobs.

I believe that Gen Z should get a say in the government about green jobs. What I am proposing is a yearly debate where young adults and government officials discuss environmental solutions. Environmental organizations can arrange these debates, giving the government more insight into the next generation. Most laws that try to encourage green jobs in the public are usually made by previous generations so I believe that Gen Z should contribute to making them since we will get these jobs.

Other than having a say in government matters, I recommend an online green job awareness program and TV channel. They will help green jobs reach many people, giving updates on green jobs being made and their work with climate change. They will give young adults a more accessible opportunity to do courses on green jobs. Other benefits include giving companies ideas about how to make green jobs that specialize in the youth's skills and reducing unemployment rates.

These solutions can work together for a brighter future. Although it seems that humanity's road has reached a dead end, it isn't over yet! We can still amend our past mistakes and finally put off the burden of climate change on the youth. Together, we can use different kinds of education to help people get green jobs! It is our job to start fighting against climate change and this will be our first step.

Joint 5th Prize

How can young people be better supported to thrive in green jobs?

By Hamsini Senthil, aged 8 (Seychelles)

Green jobs are employment opportunities that contribute to preserving or restoring the environment. These jobs can range from renewable energy technicians to conservation scientists and include many other positions that focus on sustainability. Many people are concerned about the negative effects of climate change that is occurring in this present world and want to change them. As young people are the future of the workforce, it is important that they are supported to succeed in these types of careers. Here are a few ways in which young people can be better supported to thrive in green jobs:

1. **Education and training programs:** One of the most effective ways to support young people in green jobs is to provide education and training programs that give them the skills and knowledge they need to succeed. This could include vocational training programs that teach specific technical skills, as well as degree programs in fields such as environmental science or renewable energy.
2. **Job placement assistance:** To better support young people in their job search, it can be helpful to provide job placement assistance programs. These programs can help young people connect with employers, prepare for job interviews, and negotiate job offers.
3. **Mentorship and networking opportunities:** By connecting young people with experienced professionals in green jobs, they can gain valuable insights and advice, as well as make connections that may lead to job opportunities.
4. **Financial support:** To better support individuals who may not have the financial resources to pay for their education upfront, it may be helpful to provide financial assistance in the form of scholarships, grants, or loans.
5. **Public policies that support green jobs:** By supporting the growth of green jobs through public policy, young people can have more opportunities to enter this field and make a positive impact on the environment.

In conclusion, there are many ways in which young people can be better supported to thrive in green jobs. Through education and training programs, job placement assistance, mentorship and networking opportunities, financial support, and public policies that support the development of green jobs, young people can gain the skills and resources they need to succeed in these careers. This will not only benefit young people, but also the environment and the global community as a whole.

Joint 5th Prize

How can young people be better supported to thrive in green jobs?

By Alina Ryburn, aged 10 (UAE)

A green job is a job that benefits the environment. Some examples are renewable energy engineers, architects who design eco-friendly houses and buildings, sustainability supervisors, and environmental scientists.

One in 10 workers in the United States already carry out green tasks in their jobs and the number of employees in green jobs is growing. It is clear that green jobs will be important for helping the environment and therefore we need to help make sure that young people can thrive in green jobs when they grow up. I think there are four steps that will help young people thrive in green jobs.

The first step is to teach young people about green jobs and make sure they understand what green jobs are. Some ways we could do that are by teaching them about green jobs at school and university and by making sure that young people understand how important green jobs are and the environmental benefits that they have. We can also make sure that young people know that there will be lots of opportunities in green jobs in the future.

Once young people understand what green jobs are and why they are important, the next step is to make sure that they are interested in green jobs. A few ways we can do this are by having work experience opportunities for kids and young people. Fun books about green jobs can also be made and put in libraries, book shops and other public places that young people go to often. It would also help if people made interesting TV shows about green jobs for kids to watch.

The third step is to teach young people the skills they need for green jobs. To do this, companies that have green jobs could tell schools what skills people need to do green jobs so they can include them in the curriculum. Entertaining games that teach children the skills required for green jobs can also be made. Schools could also have enrichments, after school activities and clubs that teach students the skills needed for green jobs.

The final step is to make sure that green jobs have good job conditions so that young people will want to work in these jobs. The companies with green jobs can help by making sure they pay and treat their workers fairly, and the government can help by making laws that encourage young people to do green jobs like making taxes lower for people working in these jobs.

If we follow these four steps, it will help young people thrive in green jobs, which is better for everyone because it benefits the environment, society and the world as a whole.