

Just Greening Our Community - Executive Summary

"The chief moral obligation of the 21st Century is to build a green economy that is strong enough to lift people out of poverty. Those communities that were locked out of the last century's pollution-based economy must be locked into the new, clean and renewable economy. Our youth need green-collar jobs, not jails."
- Van Jones

There is a grassroots movement emerging to partner the environmental jobs that most need to be done with the people who most need good job opportunities. "Green-collar jobs", like white-collar and blue-collar jobs, can provide living wages and career paths for individuals and families currently living in poverty.

The "Just Greening Our Community" group is a collaboration of several for-profit and non-profit organizations in North Carolina. Our main objective is to develop and pilot a model of green-collar job implementation that can be replicated throughout the state by community-based organizations. The model project will incorporate green technologies available through the members of NCSEA and local labor from the community where the project is implemented.

The model project will be to develop and build affordable, green homes in one of Passage Home's target neighborhoods and employ people from that neighborhood. This one project will meet three goals:

- Employment and training in "green jobs" for the neighborhood
- Home ownership opportunities of affordable, green housing for people in the neighborhood
- Neighborhood restoration

Collaborating parties that are currently involved include:

- North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association
- North Carolina Association of CDC's
- North Carolina Community Development Initiative
- Southern Energy Management
- LS3P Associates, LTD (Architecture)
- [novo] design studio (Landscape Architecture)
- Passage Home CDC

*All partners will work together to gather resources to make the project successful.

With developers of green technologies and community-based organizations working together, we can begin training a workforce with the skills needed by the green industry. This strategy will provide local and sustainable solutions to all of the communities in North Carolina and increase justice, inclusion and diversity in the green economy.