

# Earth Day 2010

# REPORT



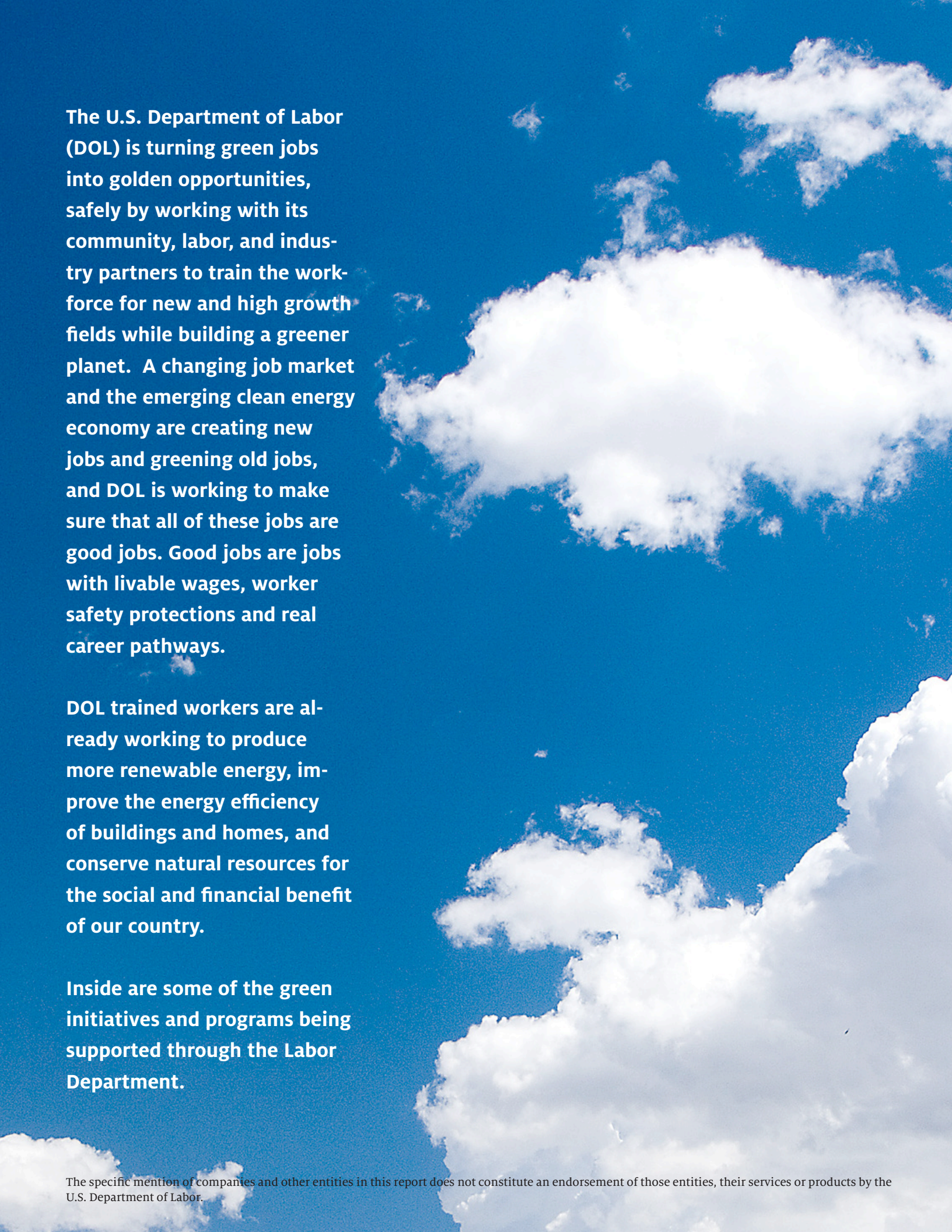
THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

## Turning Green Jobs to Gold, Safely



Secretary Solis with a program participant at the Labor Community Service Center in Phoenix, AZ. Students at the Youthbuild site are completing construction on a green building.





The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) is turning green jobs into golden opportunities, safely by working with its community, labor, and industry partners to train the workforce for new and high growth fields while building a greener planet. A changing job market and the emerging clean energy economy are creating new jobs and greening old jobs, and DOL is working to make sure that all of these jobs are good jobs. Good jobs are jobs with livable wages, worker safety protections and real career pathways.

DOL trained workers are already working to produce more renewable energy, improve the energy efficiency of buildings and homes, and conserve natural resources for the social and financial benefit of our country.

Inside are some of the green initiatives and programs being supported through the Labor Department.





Secretary Solis visits with students at LA Trade-Technical College in Los Angeles where program participants are learning about diesel technology.



### **Greening DOL Headquarters and Beyond**

The Department of Labor has signaled a challenge to “green” its buildings, including the nearly 2 million square foot headquarters in Washington DC, the Frances Perkins Building, which was designated an Energy Star facility by the Environmental Protection Agency in December 2008 and again in 2009. DOL’s Job Corps programs and students are playing a leadership role in greening the Department’s buildings in 123 Job Corps campuses across the country.

### **Greening Recovery Act Funds**

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) awarded \$490 million in Recovery Act funded green jobs training, and \$227 million in health care and high growth grants, which included several grants related to clean energy. The Recovery Act funded grant solicitations encouraged applicants to partner with others funded through the Recovery Act, including those funded by the Department of Energy (DOE). ETA is currently developing a comprehensive actionable and virtual technical assistance program for Recovery Act clean energy grantees. In addition, ETA

has developed a Green Community of Practice for workforce professionals, and ETA’s Office of Apprenticeship is helping Registered Apprenticeship programs keep pace with changes related to 21st Century green employment opportunities.

### **Green and Safe**

The Policy Office (OASP) is leading a Department-wide team, alongside the Employment and Training Administration (ETA), to assist the agencies in coordinating their efforts to secure access to safe and sustainable green jobs for all workers. The Policy Office also represents the Department on the interagency working groups related to clean energy and negotiated an MOU with the Departments of Education and Energy and an agreement with HUD in order to collaborate closely on linking the U.S. workforce to jobs, training and educational opportunities.

### **Green Jobs for Women**

In 2009, the Women’s Bureau (WB) convened more than 30 roundtables across the country to discuss the role of women in green jobs, and as a result, developed nine green jobs training projects for women. WB is partnering with Public Policy Associates and Wider Opportunities

for Women to develop a “Women’s Guide to Green Jobs,” designed to aid in increasing access for women to high growth and emerging industry occupations in the green jobs sector nationwide. The guide will be available in hard copy and online in the summer 2010.





Secretary Solis walking with Richard Haug, COO of Spectra Watt in Hopewell Junction, NY. The company manufactures solar panels and is hiring workers for high-paying green jobs.



### **Green Jobs for Veterans**

In 2009, the Veterans Employment and Training Services (VETS) issued the first training grants through its Veterans Workforce Investment Program (VWIP) designed to train and place veterans in green jobs and industries. The second competition of this type is now open.

### **Green Jobs and People with Disabilities**

The Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) hosted a roundtable in December 2009 in conjunction with the National Technical Assistance and Research Leadership Center, titled "Strategies for Including People with Disabilities in the Green Jobs Talent Pipeline." The roundtable brought together leaders to develop recommendations to ensure that people with disabilities are included in the emerging energy efficiency and renewable energy workforce talent pipelines and to identify promising Federal, state, regional, and local opportunities for linking persons with disabilities to these green jobs.

### **Job Corps, Youth and Green**

Building on Recovery Act funds for construction, rehabilitation, acquisition and operations, Job Corps has implemented "green" student training programs and commenced construction projects at more than 65 centers, helping to create and retain jobs. Job Corps is also conducting an Earth Day Every Day campaign the week of April 19th-23rd to raise environmental awareness among students and staff and serve as friendly reminders to be more energy efficient. DOL's YouthBuild programs are also making significant investments in training around green construction techniques and related green trades apprenticeships and the use of sustainable building materials.





Secretary Solis interacts with an employee at NV Energy in Nevada. The company provides electricity to 2.4 million citizens throughout the state and in northeastern California.



### **Making Green Safe**

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recently announced a partnership with Texas State Technical College with a focus on safety in the wind energy industry; TSTC has one of the largest wind energy technology programs in the nation. This April, OSHA sponsored a forum around safety and health challenges posed by green jobs in the small business sector, and also hosted a national Latino worker health and safety conference in Houston, Texas on the 14th and 15th of the month, focused in particular on the construction industry, which is going green.

### **Sustainability and Safety in the Mine Industry**

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is participating with the Policy Office in the Carbon Capture and Storage Interagency Task Force. Its focus is on promoting a sustainable and safe coal industry as well as opportunities for miners to transition into new jobs if a change in technology should cause a shift in the industry.





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