

## Definition needed for “green collar worker”, says consultancy

**The term “green collar worker” urgently needs defining and a “taxonomy” of types of green jobs needs developing if accurate estimates are to be generated about the significance of the emerging green economy, says Australian consultancy Connection Research.**

In a report outlining a methodology for defining and categorising green collar workers, Connection Research concludes that until a working definition of the term green collar worker is agreed it will be “impossible to arrive at a meaningful figure” about the number of such workers. It underlines this argument by pointing out that current estimates suggest there are between 50,000 and more than 300,000 green collar workers in the Australasia region.

Two primary approaches to calculating the number of green collar workers are currently in use, says the report. One identifies workers according to their stated occupation, while the other identifies entire industries as 'green' and defines all those within it as green collar. Connection Research suggests a more nuanced method of singling out and categorising green workers, which combines occupational and sectoral analysis as well as categorisation according to skill level. The report also argues that a distinction should be made between environmental and sustainability jobs.

Connection Research's report forms part of an ongoing research programme undertaken by the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand, an organisation for environmental practitioners.