

Green jobs could put green in Vermonters' pockets

The young Vermonters at the September 20 Climate Strike might soon be joining the state's green jobs market. About 18,900 people now work in jobs related to clean energy, according to the 2019 Vermont Clean Energy Industry Report from the Department of Public Service. That's an increase of about 28 percent since 2013. And while job growth has slowed, the time devoted to clean-energy work has increased, according to the report. Meanwhile, the Vermont Department of Labor announced Friday that the total number of nonfarm payroll jobs in the state fell by 600 in August.

LATEST BLS DATA - SEPTEMBER 20, 2019			
	AUG 2019	JUL 2019	AUG 2018
Labor Force	347,140	347,799	345,864
Employment	339,727	340,531	336,755
Unemployment	7,413	7,268	9,109
Unemployment Rate	2.1%	2.1%	2.6%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Better wages

Adding more green jobs could help the economy as well as the planet. According to current job growth projections, most of the 10,500 new jobs expected between 2016 and 2026 will come in occupations at the low and high ends of the wage scale. The bottom 20 percent of jobs, which will account for 33 percent of projected growth, paid an average of \$12.54 an hour in 2018. Most midlevel jobs in renewable energy or energy efficiency pay wages in the top 20 or 40 percent.

Fewer uninsured

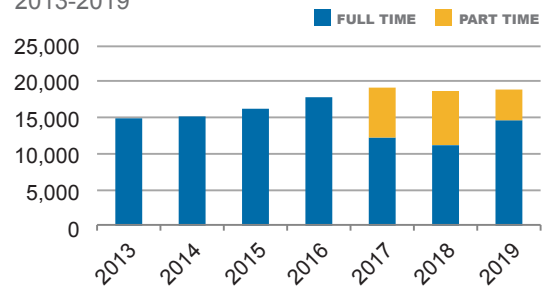
While the percentage of U.S. residents lacking health insurance rose last year, Vermont and the rest of New England bucked the trend, according to new Census data. The rates of uninsured residents dropped in five of the six states, while Massachusetts held steady at 2.8 percent, the lowest rate. Vermont was second best, with 4 percent uninsured. Maine, which declined to expand Medicaid under Obamacare, left 8 percent of its residents without coverage.

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Jobs in clean energy have risen

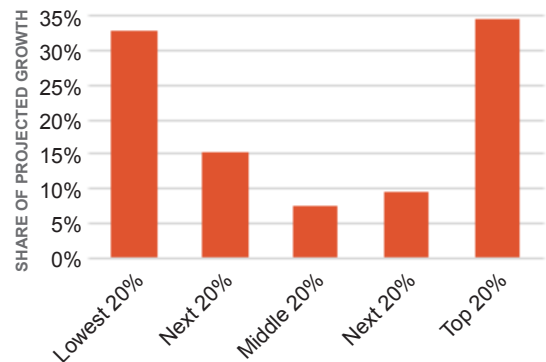
Clean-energy jobs in Vermont, full and part time, 2013-2019



Source: 2019 Vermont Clean Energy Industry Report, Vermont Department of Public Service

Low- and high-paid jobs are expected to grow

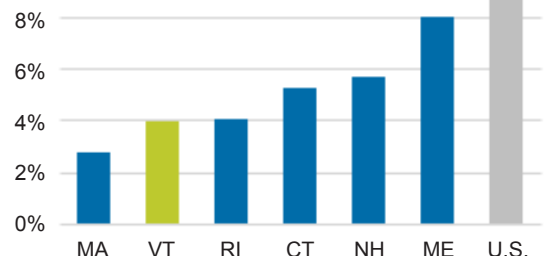
Share of projected job growth, 2016-2026, by wage quintile



Data source: Vermont Department of Labor

4 percent of Vermonters lacked health insurance—region's 2nd-lowest rate

Percentage of residents without health insurance, New England states and U.S., 2018



Data source: U.S. Census, 2018 1-year American Community Survey