



Canada's Colleges and Institutes: Transitioning to a Culture of Green Innovation

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Green Transitions

Meeting demands for green skills and green jobs through institutional:

- Initiatives
- Strategies
- Approaches

What are we learning?

What are the challenges?

❑ Re-thinking green skills

❑ Innovating in program design

❑ Leveraging community-based applied research



Characteristics of Skill Types

Local &
traditional
knowledge

**Specialised
green technical skills**

Job specific, 'new', or adapted; few in number; often time-sensitive, or time-limited.

**Broad-based
green technical skills**

Common across multiple jobs, occupational areas, industries & sectors.

**Transitioning
Green-er skills**

Adaptation of existing vocational skills to include more sustainable practices & processes. Large skill cluster. Significant in re-positioning all vocational programs. Modifications may be incremental.

**Skills for sustainability
(generic, work-place)**

- Key 'skills for the 21st C workplace'.
- Align with 'generic', 'essential' or 'soft skills'.
- Future-oriented; 'career capital'.
- Build graduate attributes such as resilience & adaptability in an unpredictable world.
- Require 'deep learning'.

**Sustainability
literacy**

'General education'
(breadth courses)
outside the vocational area

A Green Skills Typology



Examples of Skill Types

Local & traditional knowledge

Specialised technical skills

Broad-based technical skills

Transitioning skills

Skills for sustainability

Sustainability literacy

- How natural systems function
- Ethics and values
- Motivating sustainability behaviour and consumption
- Technological and economic relationships to sustainability

(Second Nature)

A Green Skills Typology

- Installation of Photo-Voltaic panels
- De-commissioning of wind turbines
- Design of geothermal systems

- Product life-cycle assessment
- Waste reduction and management
- Energy conservation and management

- **Business:** green procurement; corporate social responsibility; carbon accounting
- **Construction:** materials selection; life cycle analysis; building reclamation
- **Culinary arts:** local sourcing; food preservation; selection/use of energy efficient appliances

- Enterprise skills; innovation and creativity
- Capacity to solve complex problems
- Systems-thinking
- Ethical/moral decision-making
- Assessing consequences of one's actions



Greening of TVET Program Design

Traditional TVET Programs	Design of Transitioning & Future G-TVET Programs
Job specific, or limited in occupational scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Provides entry to emergent, diversifying, or evolving fields (cross-sectoral, cross-disciplinary)▪ ‘Occupational fusion’ and new combinations of skills
Programs ‘siloed’ or ‘stand alone’; career paths	Program clusters or hubs - common curriculum (e.g. STEM); career matrices
Single point of entry/exit	Multiple points of entry and exit
Meets needs of traditional school leaver	Promotes workforce mobility (re-skilling, up-skilling, multi-skilling, re-entry to workforce)
Limited capacity to respond to changing skills needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Responsive to time-sensitive/time-limited skills needs.▪ Effective industry/sector advising; currency of LMI▪ Responsive QA & qualifications frameworks.
Terminal qualification; limited <i>academic & workplace</i> mobility	Includes ‘stackable credentials’, ‘up-skilling’ (bridge programs, certifications, modules); transferable credits and new academic pathways.
Conventional delivery	Flexible and responsive program delivery. Changing strategies for teaching and learning.



Applications:

- green/clean technologies
- energy renewables
- environmental goods/services
- water science
- green resource extraction
- green manufacturing

Localisation

Responds to regional, economic, environmental, & community needs

Uses local & traditional knowledge

Stimulates local economy

Scalable & transferable outcomes

Builds infrastructure

Faculty engagement

Campus greening

Student entrepreneurship

Curriculum innovation, curriculum greening & new program development

Student engagement

Innovation in teaching & learning

Applied projects

Work-integrated learning

Applied Research

Community engagement

Small-to-medium sized-enterprises

Industry & sector

Partnerships

Public-Private

Research networks

Centres of research excellence

University-College

Processes:

- Incubation
- Product development
- Testing & validation
- Commercialization