

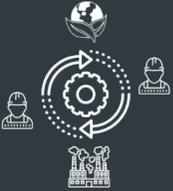
Module 4: Towards green jobs and a green economy



What will you learn in this module?



What is the green economy and what are green jobs?



How can a transition to a green economy help address issues relating to occupational air pollution?



How can a just transition be achieved to ensure no unintended consequences?



What is the green economy and what are green jobs?



Green Economy

The green economy is an economy that is *low carbon, resource efficient, and socially inclusive*.



Green jobs

“

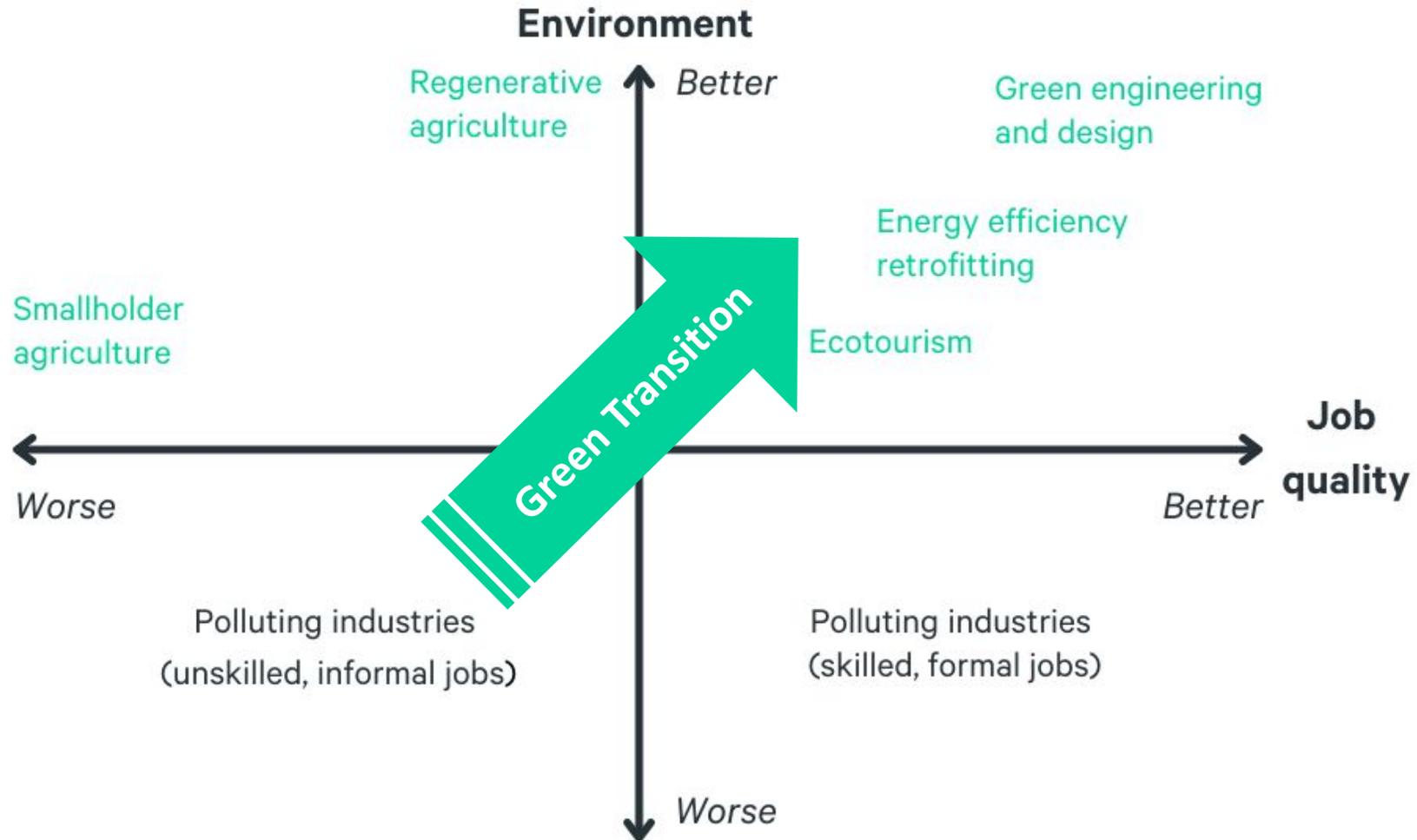
Decent jobs that contribute to preserv[ing] or restor[ing] the environment, be they in traditional sectors such as manufacturing and construction, or in new, emerging green sectors such as renewable energy and energy efficiency.

”

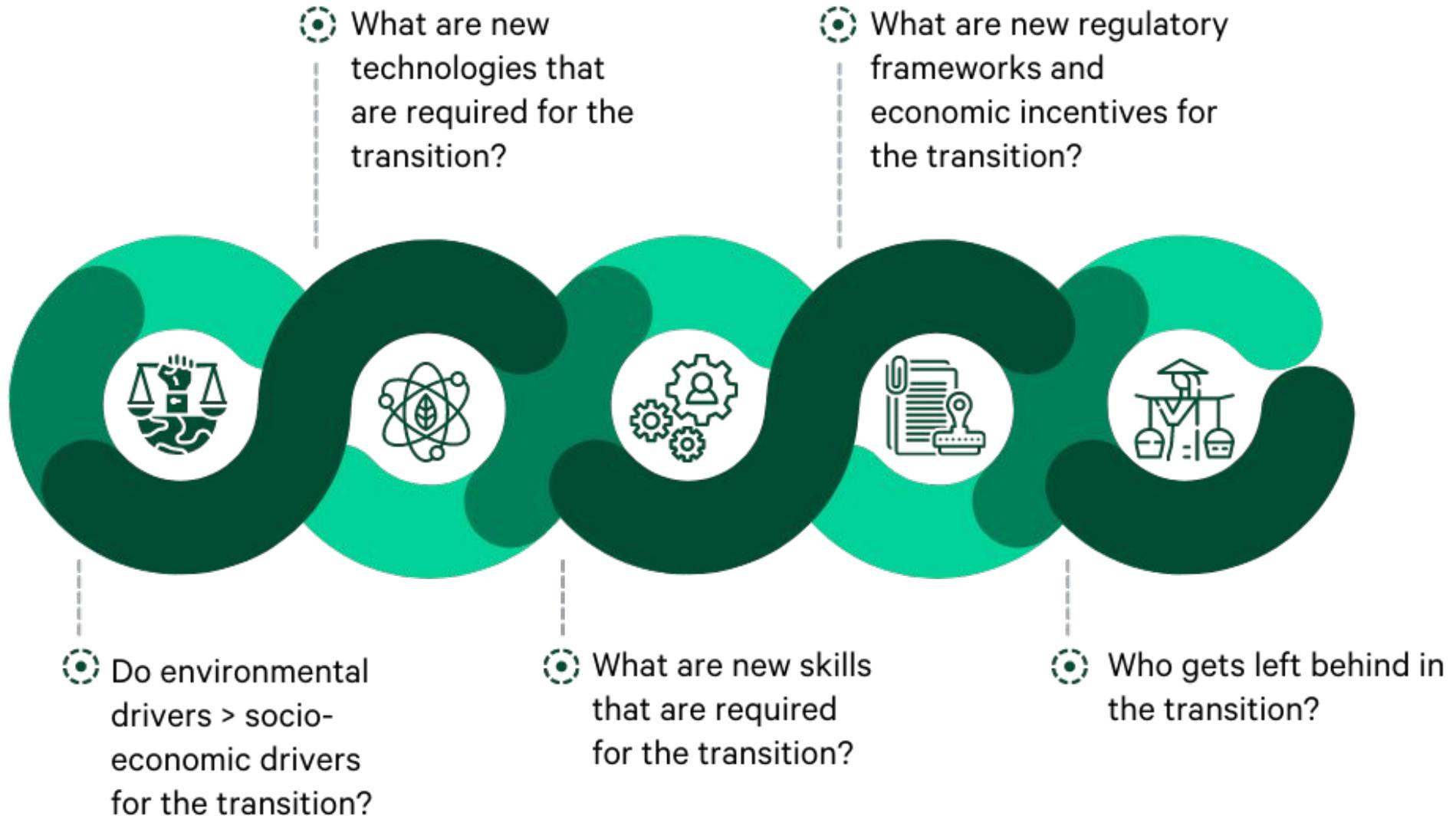
ILO 2016



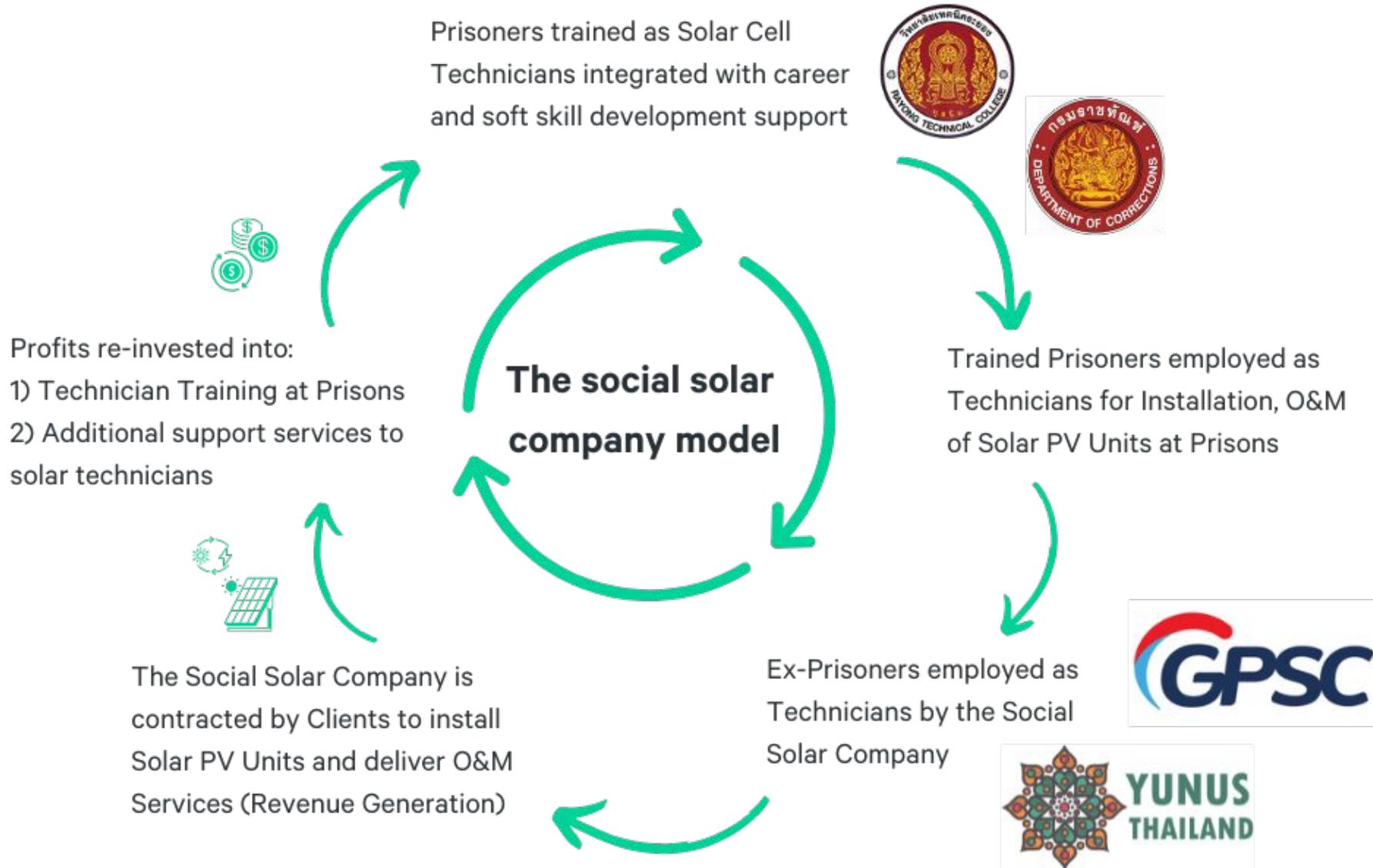
Green transition and job implications



Socio-economic considerations of a transition



Inclusive green jobs



How can a transition to a green economy help address issues relating to occupational air pollution?



Green transitions in transport



What do green transitions look like?

- Shift to EV mass transit, taxis, tuktuks, and motorbikes



What are relevant policies?

- Promote walking and cycling
- Promote mass transit e.g. through subsidised fares
- Raise costs of private vehicle ownership e.g. higher parking fees, and end fuel subsidies



What are the challenges for informal transport workers?

- E.g. tuktuks and jeepneys
- Are vehicle costs affordable?
- Do drivers have the maintenance skills?



Who else will get benefits?

- Benefit to other outdoor workers e.g. street vendors and street sweepers



Green transitions in agriculture

Key source of agricultural emissions: Agricultural burning e.g. post-harvest stalks or for harvesting of cane sugar

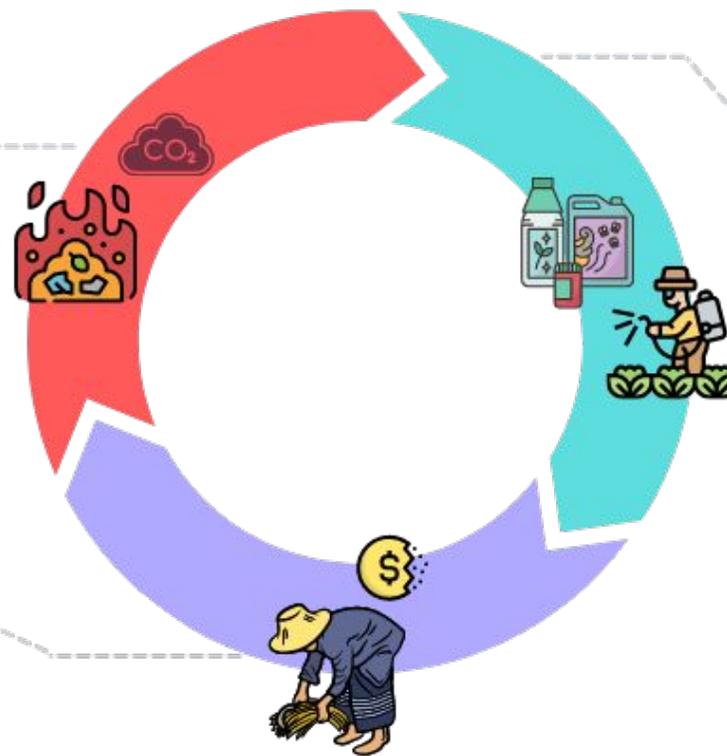
Agricultural workers: Most of these workers in Asia are informal

Dealing with Agricultural waste

- Composting, using biodigesters, ploughing to deal with agricultural waste products
- Providing skills training and opportunities to monetise these techniques e.g. selling compost

Shifting cost burden

- Contract farmers often bear the cost
- Shifting cost burden to large agricultural conglomerates



Sustainable agriculture

- Ensuring more sustainable agriculture with fewer chemicals



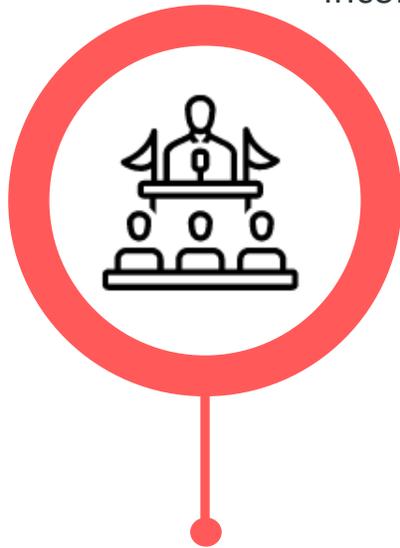
How can a just transition be achieved to ensure no unintended consequences?



Challenges for a just, green transition

Blanket rules

- E.g. Rules on age of vehicles can hit those who rely on those vehicles for their income e.g. taxi drivers, delivery drivers



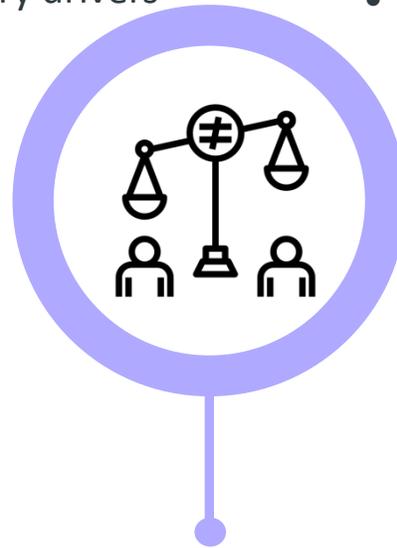
Top-down edicts or regulations hit workers hardest

- E.g. Philippines mines closures caused job losses creating vulnerability in communities



Structural drivers of inequality need to be addressed

- To aid a just transition
- E.g. education, skills, financial literacy and access to loans, and bureaucratic paperwork



Informal jobs

- How to encourage a green transition in those sectors?
- What are the incentives?



Towards an inclusive green transition

Address structural causes of inequality

that undermine people from obtaining a 'decent' working life

Shared goals for environmental sustainability

All stakeholders, including policy makers, employers and workers, to agree on their shared goals for environmental sustainability

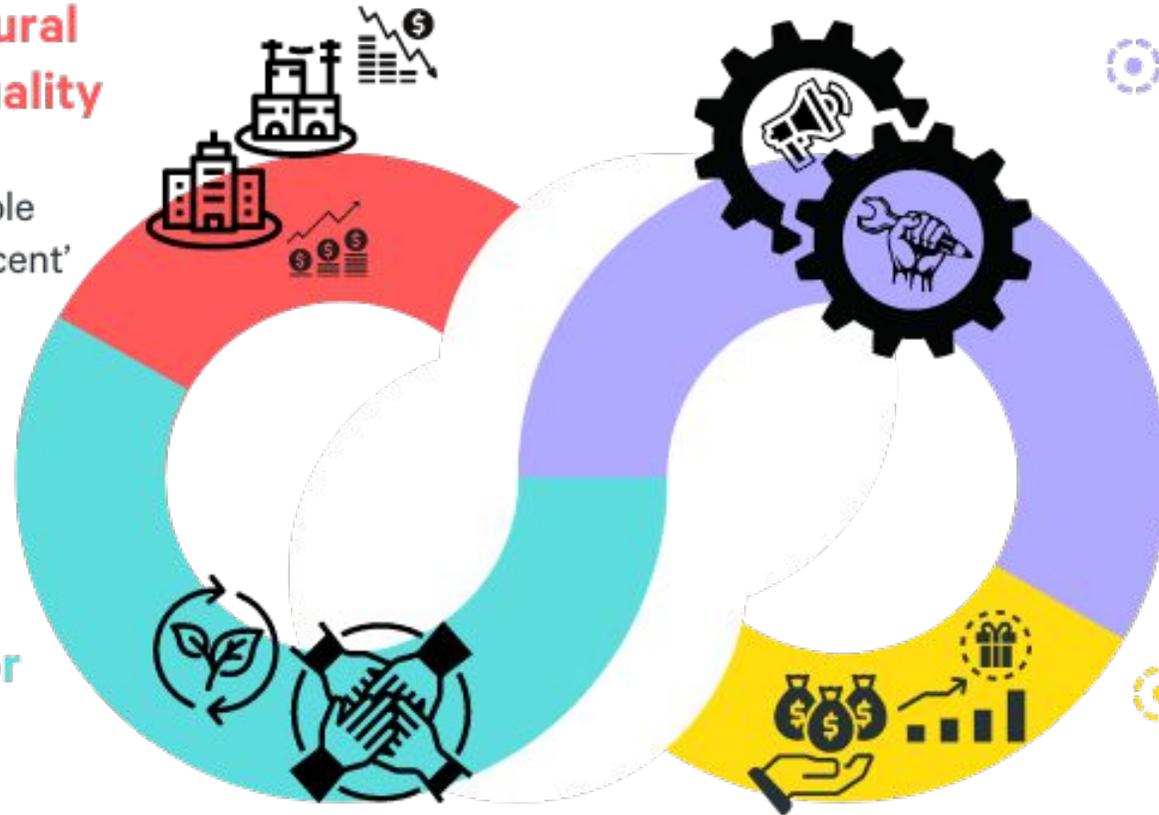
Worker empowerment

Civil society e.g. labour unions to educate workers whether formal or informal of their rights

Incentive and financial structures

that are accessible to all

- E.g. South Africa subsidies for public transport but not taxis



Key messages



The green economy is low carbon, socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable



Green jobs are not only better for the environment but also provide better working conditions



Informal workers need to be brought to the table in the green transition to ensure a just transition – otherwise they may be excluded or harmed by the process, losing their livelihoods in the process



Relevant resources

- Bulmer, Elizabeth Ruppert; and Rutkowski, Michal. 2021. [“Making the “Green Transition” work for labor market,”](#) World Bank Blogs.
- International Labour Organization (ILO). 2019. [Green Jobs and a Just Transition for Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific.](#) Bangkok: Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.
- Jarvis, Andrew; Varma, Adarsh; and Ram, Justin. 2011. [Assessing green jobs potential in developing countries: A practitioner’s guide.](#) International Labour Office: Geneva.
- Sharpe, S.A.; and Martinez-Fernandez, C.M. 2021. [“The Implications of Green Employment: Making a Just Transition in ASEAN,”](#) *Sustainability* 13(13), 7389.
- Van der Ree, Kee. 2019. [“Promoting Green Jobs: Decent Work in the Transition to Low-Carbon, Green Economies,”](#) *International Development Policy | Revue internationale de politique de développement* 11, 2019, 248-271.



Relevant resources

Podcasts:

- SEI Asia podcast: [Intersectionality and air pollution in the world of work](#)
- SEI Asia podcast: [Informal workers in the just transition to a green economy](#)