

## Guest Opinion

# Bay Area cleantech adds good jobs

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A new report from the Brookings Institution, *Sizing the Clean Economy*, confirms that the Bay Area's bet on cleantech is paying off in the form of diverse, well-paid jobs.

The Bay Area hosts 11 percent of all U.S. jobs in cleantech. San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont has nearly 14,000 and San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara more than 6,000. Between 2003 and 2010, these jobs grew at an average annual rate of 5.5 percent in San Francisco and 12.6 percent in San Jose.

These are well-paid jobs, averaging \$60,000 in San Francisco and \$56,000 in San Jose. This is important in the Bay Area, where middle class jobs and income have been stagnant.

The study also looks beyond cleantech to green jobs in more traditional sectors such as pollution prevention, waste management, architecture and energy services. Measured this way, the Bay Area supports 70,000 clean economy jobs, the fourth largest concentration in the nation after New York, Los Angeles and Chicago.

What's the message? Environmental and energy efficiency goals are embedded throughout the economy, here and in other metropolitan areas. Where the Bay Area stands out is in cleantech. This is an area where the region's research capacity, venture capital, entrepreneurship and environmental commitment have enabled it to excel.

Cleantech's growth, even during a recession, suggests its promise, and cleantech development and deployment should be a strategic priority for business and government leaders. This transition—to a low-carbon, high-efficiency economy—has the potential to transform our region, creating jobs and other benefits across the economic spectrum.

R. Sean Randolph is President & CEO of the Bay Area Council Economic Institute, the Bay Area partner in the Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Project. A summary of the Bay Area data in the Brookings study can be accessed at [www.bayareaeconomy.org](http://www.bayareaeconomy.org).