

Get into Energy

GET INTO SOLAR



More than six million Americans work in energy careers that power our country and our lives. They transform things like natural gas, uranium, water, sun and wind into energy. This essential work requires a multitude of competencies and expertise from a skilled, diverse workforce.

ENERGY PROFESSIONALS WORK IN:

- Skilled trade positions
- Engineering and technical roles
- Business operations

Solar energy is a carbon-free and renewable energy resource that's growing in demand.¹ Today there's enough solar power available on the grid to power nearly 20 million U.S. households, and that number will continue to climb every year.

WHAT IS SOLAR ENERGY?



- Rays from the sun travel over 90 million miles to reach the earth but contain so much power that when they finally arrive, we can convert them into useable clean energy to run our homes and business.



- Photovoltaic cells — also known as solar panels — are made of semiconductor material that absorb sunlight. The absorption excites electrons within, effectively generating electricity.²



- Another way to harness solar energy is by using a concentrating solar-thermal power system. Mirrors are set up on a large expanse of land and are angled in just the right way to reflect sunlight towards a single spot. Ultimately, the spot becomes hot enough to boil water to drive a steam turbine that generates electricity.³

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF CAREERS IN SOLAR ENERGY?

- Solar employees take pride that they support a renewable energy resource that generates carbon-free electricity
- Solar offers many varied careers with opportunities for advancement
- Solar can provide potential cost savings for communities everywhere
- Solar energy can enhance resiliency
- Solar employers offer competitive wages



¹ <https://www.seia.org/research-resources/solar-market-insight-report-2021-q2>

² <https://www.energy.gov/eere/solar/how-does-solar-work> and <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/solar-power>

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WHAT KINDS OF JOBS EXIST IN SOLAR ENERGY?

When thinking about solar jobs, many of us may picture men and women working on roofs, hoisting solar panels off the ground, and laying them out. That's the job of a Solar PV Installer. But many different jobs are just as essential to generating and delivering clean, reliable solar energy.

SKILLED TRADES & TECHNICAL POSITIONS	ENGINEERING & STEM POSITIONS	BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS
Installation Contractors	Software Engineers	IT Specialists
Project Managers	System Designers	Lawyers
Electricians	Structural Engineers	Procurement Specialists
Solar PV Technicians & Installers	Electrical Engineers	Code Officials
Plumbers	Environmental Engineers	Sales Representatives
Roofers	Mechanical Engineers	Marketing Specialists
	Materials Scientists	



HOW DO YOU GET STARTED IN A SOLAR CAREER?

There are many paths to a rewarding career in solar energy. Higher education and years of experience may be a prerequisite for many engineering or business-professional roles. On the other hand, short-term, on-the-job training or even apprenticeships are avenues for entry-level positions in skilled trade or construction. Acquiring additional certification such as NABCEP, attending a technical school program, or achieving a degree is an excellent way to advance your career.

You should work in solar if you:

- Are passionate about making a difference
- Want your work to be hands on
- Like complex systems and problem solving
- Are adaptable to change and love to learn



Solar is an excellent avenue for adults looking to make a career change!

