

NABCEP CERTIFICANT PROFILE

Jeff Irish



Jeff Irish, a professional engineer and NABCEP Certified PV Installer, is the president of Hudson Valley Clean Energy, Inc. (HVCE) and Adirondack Solar located in New York State. The companies are full service providers specializing in the design, installation, and servicing of these renewable energy systems.

“I was living in Ontario, Canada during the oil shocks of 1974 and ‘79, and was so motivated by these events that I designed, with two college classmates, a zero net energy house.”

After obtaining an MBA and then a long career with G.E., he began a new career. “I researched renewable energy again, at the beginning of the new millennium, and saw that photovoltaic (PV) prices were going down and oil prices up which made for a reasonable business opportunity. Our first system went up in 2002.”

“From the beginning, the New York State Energy Research and Development Agency (NYSERDA) were very rigorous about demanding high quality PV installations to qualify for state incentives. They did not want a repeat of the 1980’s solar thermal debacle.”

As a P.E., Jeff is one of the few certificants to say he took an even tougher exam, in electrical power, but maintains that, “The NABCEP certification exam is difficult and should remain so.”

“My NABCEP certification benefits my company because it helps to distinguish us from the competition. NYSERDA lists all of the qualified installation companies, in New York State, on its website and they highlight NABCEP certificants. So we get called before others. As well, all public bids now call for NABCEP certification.”

“While our customers want to hire a NABCEP certificant, they are confused about difference between the level of knowledge and experience there is between an individual with Entry Level training and a full certificant.”

“I am glad to see a growing number of NABCEP certificants. I’m also happy that NABCEP developed a different stamp or logo to very clearly distinguish between the Entry Level achievement and the PV Installer Certification.”

“I have already recertified twice and also volunteer on a number of NABCEP committees.”