

## NABCEP CERTIFICANT PROFILE

# Jessica Baldwin



**Jessica Baldwin** operates Solar Plumbing Design (SPD) in New York City. She is a hands-on plumber who oversees two crews installing residential, solar heating (SH) installations from New York City to Albany.

“I have had a long term interest in sustainable living which was passed on to me by my parents. At age 21, I built an off-grid cabin in the Catskills on which I installed a PV system. From there, I moved to the city and began training for a plumbing contractor’s license. When I discovered that I could use my plumbing skills to install SH systems, my two life interests came together in a meaningful way.”

“While doing research about SH, I became aware of NABCEP’s certification process and the importance of that certification for knowing how SH systems work. The extreme value of the NABCEP certification is that it sets you apart from others in the field.”

Although it took Jessica two tries to pass the certification exam, she says, “I was willing to write it twice since this is my life interest not just a hobby. This certification gives me the edge since no other certification says I have explicit

knowledge and experience with SH. This specificity sets down an immediate basis of trust with the customer. My clients save a ton of headaches because they know the job will be done correctly.”

“As well my NABCEP certification proves that I am capable of understanding solar heating design parameters and can assess the proper materials to use on the job. Since my certification, the designers I work with treat me with more respect and listen to my opinions about designs before they are put on the roof.”

“From a business perspective, I am more likely to get a job over someone without the NABCEP certification. More job requests now call for NABCEP certification up front.”

“I find there is an instant rapport and trust between certificant holders. The exam is so rigorous that I am proud when my colleagues pass.”

“The only thing I would like to add to the exam is a question or two about ethical standards. I look forward to seeing if that happens when I recertify.”