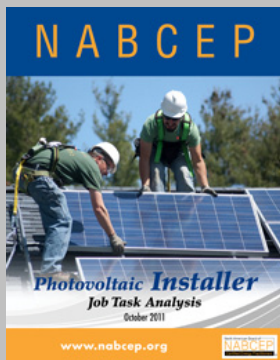


PV Installer JTA Updated



[Click here](#) for full story.



Don't miss the great selection of NABCEP branded items that are now available at our online store. Visit the [store](#) and select from pens, hats, shirts, and warm layers.

Tips from Colleagues

Solar Heating News

The Job Task Analysis (JTA) for NABCEP's Solar Heating Installer Certification has been updated and revised. The [JTA](#) is the result of a collaborative process undertaken by a group of thirteen subject matter experts that volunteered their time and knowledge. It was then validated through an online survey process, to which more than 100 solar heating installation professionals responded. Ezra Auerbach, executive director of NABCEP, says, "The JTA is a core element of any certification program and regular updates are necessary to ensure that the credential offered is based on most current best practices and technology in use. The JTA was developed in accordance with certification industry standards and, as such, continues to ensure the relevance of the NABCEP Solar Heating Installer Certification."

In other Solar Heating news, the Technical Committees for Solar Thermal Installer and the Solar Thermal Entry Level program (more on this new program below) have officially changed the name of the certification and exam to **Solar Heating**. The main reason was to help eliminate confusion between solar heating technology that is employed in domestic hot water systems, swimming pools, and space heating and technology that is used in using the sun's heat to generate electricity through concentrating solar power (CSP).

Les Nelson, long time NABCEP Board Director and solar heating advocate says, "This name change reflects the actual work done by NABCEP Certificants in the field today, and helps clarify that these certificants have demonstrated knowledge of the various skills required to safely install solar heating systems. Over the last decade, "solar thermal" has come to mean large scale solar heating projects designed to produce electricity. NABCEP Solar Heating Certification reflects knowledge of the skills required to install smaller-scale distributed solar heating technologies. This name change will help





David Verner, a NABCEP PV Technical Sales Professional Certificant, sends us a great tip for finding magnetic declination for all locations at the "click of a mouse." Visit <http://www.magnetic-declination.com/> and enter your location in the search window or click on the map and you will find the latitude, longitude, magnetic declination, and other useful information.

avoid confusion between these different applications of solar heat technologies."

We will be sending out new logos and certification certificates to everyone who holds the existing NABCEP Solar Thermal Installer Certification. We expect that there will be a period that both names and logos are used in the market place. It would be unrealistic to think that everyone will simply change all of his or her marketing materials at the drop of a press release. We do, however, strongly encourage all Solar Heating Certificants (see, it's not hard to say) to start using the new nomenclature and logo as soon as practical and possible.

NABCEP CE Conference

We are very excited to announce our first-ever Continuing Education (CE) Conference. This conference will be held from Friday, March 30th, 2012 until Sunday, April 1st, 2012 at Hudson Valley Community College's TEC-SMART facility in Malta, NY. The



objective of this conference is to offer NABCEP Certified Installers and Technical Sales Professionals an opportunity that allows them to fulfill their CE requirements at a single event. In combination with manufacturer's training sessions, conference registrants will be able to attend workshops on the NEC, financial analysis, safety, and emerging fire codes.

The [TEC-SMART](#) location is home to one of the nations most advanced renewable energy training facilities. Available training space includes a PV lab, a computer lab, and classrooms. A number of industry-leading manufacturers have already signed up to participate in this conference including: Direct Power and Water, Magnum Energy, Morningstar, Outback Power, Power One, Quickmount, Solar World, SMA, Solectria, Schletter, Trina Solar, and UniRac. We are very pleased to have the support of SolarPro as the exclusive media sponsor for this event

We appreciate the support of NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research Development Authority) that enables us to host this event. We are limiting the first round of registration for this event to N.Y. State-based NABCEP Certificants to ensure that all New Yorkers who wish to attend this conference have the first opportunity. Conference attendance will be capped at 200 to ensure the highest quality of training experience, and registration will be opened in three blocks. Registration for New Yorkers will open on **October 15, 2011**. On November 15, 2011 registration will open to all other NABCEP Certified Installers and PV Technical Sales Professionals and all other NYSERDA Eligible Installers. On January 15, 2012, if space is still

available, registration will open to individuals that have achieved a passing score on the NABCEP PV Entry Level Exam.

The cost of registration, which includes two and a half days of training opportunities, meals, reception, and a banquet, is only \$275. An early-bird discount of \$50 is offered to those who register before December 1, 2011. This conference is a great way to get continuing education credits wrapped up in single event, meet manufacturers in a noncommercial setting, and to support NABCEP. For more information visit the [NABCEP CE conference](#) website.

SolarTech Market Survey

One of the laudable objectives of the Department of Energy's SunShot Initiative is to reduce the non-hardware costs of solar installations. One way that this can be accomplished is through reducing the costs of permitting. To that end SolarTech has been awarded a contract by NREL to conduct a survey to "benchmark" the costs of customer acquisition; permitting, inspection, and interconnection; financing and contracting; and installation and performance. We are well aware that everyone has been bombarded by a multitude of survey participation requests, and yet we are asking our readers to take the time to participate in this survey.

Developing meaningful benchmarks on the aforementioned topics will assist in establishing meaningful cost reduction goals that can be targeted. Installers' responses to this survey will be kept strictly confidential, shared only with National Renewable Energy Laboratory and DOE. Information provided now to reduce non-hardware costs of installations equals profit down the road. To aid in our information gathering (be aware that a lot of detailed questions will be asked of you) [click here](#) to obtain a copy of the survey guidelines and worksheet. Please note that SolarTech is offering a **free iPad** to 1 out of every 50 survey respondents.

Company Accreditation

The company accreditation program is progressing well and moving toward its initial pilot phase. Thanks to the many responses received to the online validation survey that was conducted during August 2011, we have learned that the committee is on the right track with respect to the key criteria that companies would have to meet to achieve certification. As always we very much appreciate the input and views of our certificants.

The next steps in the development and eventual launch of this program are to incorporate the feedback received into a final set of program standards and fees. Once this is accomplished, policies, procedures, and applications will be developed and the program will



be launched. The program will be piloted in New York State-close to "home" for our staff. We are sure that in the initial phase of the program "glitches" will occur and we'd rather be able to resolve any issues on a small-scale limited basis than on a fully national scale. We anticipate that the pilot will be launched in the last quarter of this year with a national roll out taking place during the second quarter of 2012. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting new program. We are confident that it will represent another important way that NABCEP can assist distinguish you and your business in the market place.

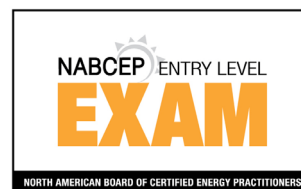
Spam

We have received a growing number of complaints from certificants about receiving spam resulting from having their email posted on our website in the locator section. We have verified that indeed a number on unethical companies are accepting the license agreement to use the site for entirely noncommercial purposes then promptly copying email addresses from the site for advertising purposes. We are decidedly "not amused" and share the frustration and anger we hear from many of you.

We most assuredly do not want to take that feature off our website nor do we wish to continue to subject our certificants to spamming. We are working with our web designers to implement a system that hides the email addresses and causes potential spammers to capture each email address individually. The "plan" we have in mind will be that those who find your name and wish to contact you by email will have to complete a form that will then be sent to you. You will only receive emails from NABCEP that way and have the ability to decide if you wish to reply to the sender. A nice feature of this method of reducing spam is that we can limit the form and prevent any attachments or links to be included. As we work on this protective strategy there may be some changes in the implementation depending on practicality, security, and cost, but be assured that we are committed to stopping the spamming as much as possible and that we are taking action to do so. Meanwhile accept our apologies and try to be patient.

New Solar Heating Entry Level Exam

NABCEP is very pleased to announce the addition of a Solar Heating Entry Level Exam to our growing suite of entry level knowledge assessment programs. As always the exam came about thanks to the diligent and tireless work of many volunteer subject matter experts from across North America. Volunteers came forward from all corners of the country-literally, the Exam Committee has members from as diverse solar heating environments as coastal British Columbia



to New Mexico to Florida and just about everywhere in between. A complete [press release](#) on this program can be found at our website. The learning objectives that set the foundation for the exam and curriculum development can be downloaded at [learning objectives](#).

Exam Dates

Dates have been announced for the next round of exams:

NABCEP PV Technical Sales Certification - Computer Based Exam

October 14, 2011: Early application deadline to save 25% on the 2012 PV Technical Sales exam.

November 14, 2011: Application deadline for the January 21 - February 4, 2012 PV Technical Sales exam.

December 9, 2011: Computer-Based Exam Scheduling Forms deadline for accepted candidates.

January 21 - February 4, 2012: PV Technical Sales exam window.

NABCEP Solar PV, Solar Heating and Small Wind Certifications - Paper & Pencil Exams

January 13, 2012: Application deadline for the March 24th, 2012 solar PV, solar heating and small wind exams.

February 10, 2012: Exam Scheduling deadline for accepted candidates.

March 24, 2012: 2012 exam date for the solar PV, solar heating and small wind installer certifications.

NABCEP at SPI

October 17-20 / Solar Power International Conference / Dallas, Texas
Please come visit us if you will be attending this conference at booth #836. As always if you want to volunteer to do some booth duty with our staff please contact Sue Pratt, our Office Manager at spratt@nabcep.org.

About NABCEP: The North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) is the most respected, well-established, and widely recognized national certification organization for solar professionals in the field of renewable energy. NABCEP is a volunteer board of representatives who are chosen based on their experience and involvement in the solar energy industry. NABCEP's mission is to develop and implement quality credentialing and certification programs for practitioners by supporting and working closely with professionals and stakeholders in the renewable energy and energy efficiency industries. To learn more visit www.nabcep.org

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