Solar Training, Credentialing and Career Pathways
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Research

Original, objective research on solar markets, economic impacts, and workforce trends. Widely acclaimed among the industry, nonprofits, academics, policy makers and media.

Capacity Building

Educational outreach and technical assistance to support decision makers in government, business, nonprofit arenas to expand solar energy use, and advance a stronger solar workforce.

Industry Leadership

Convene diverse groups to realize ambitious, measurable goals. We build networks to help nonprofits, businesses, educational, financial, and consumer sectors to invest in solar technology.

Solar Jobs Research

Solar Workforce Development

Solar Powered Communities
The Solar Ready Vets Network

Through direct impact and high-impact capacity-building initiatives, the Solar Ready Vets Network strengthens solar career pathways and advances a nationwide pipeline of military talent into all levels and sectors of the solar industry.

AmericanSolarWorkforce.org/SolarReadyVets
The North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners® (NABCEP®) is the most respected and widely recognized certification organization for professionals in the field of renewable energy. NABCEP offers certifications and credentials for skilled professionals, specialists and those new to working in the areas of photovoltaics, solar heating, and small wind technologies. Since 2003, NABCEP has launched and maintained 8 Board Certification Programs and 3 Associate credentials.
About NABCEP

• NABCEP’s mission is to support, and work with, the renewable energy and energy efficiency industries, professionals, and stakeholders to develop & implement quality credentialing & certification programs for practitioners.

• NABCEP’s goal is to develop voluntary national credentialing programs that will:
  ○ Promote renewable energy
  ○ Provide value to practitioners
  ○ Promote worker safety and skill
  ○ Promote consumer confidence

• NABCEP is the most respected, well-established, & widely recognized certification organization for professionals in the field of renewable energy.
NABCEP Board Certifications and Credentials

NABCEP offers several Board Certifications and one Associate credential in Solar PV.

NABCEP Associate Credentials in Solar PV

- PV Associate Credential

NABCEP Board Certifications in Solar PV:

- PV Installation Professional
- PV Technical Sales
- PV Design Specialist
- PV Installer Specialist
- PV Commissioning & Maintenance Specialist
- PV System Inspector
Solar Career Wheel

PV Associate Credential Education or Experience Pathways

Certification: PV Commissioning & Maintenance Specialist Certification
Career Field: PV Installer Specialist Certification
Job Title: PV System Inspector Certification

PV Commissioning & Maintenance Specialist Certification
- PV Installer
- PV Electrician
- Site Site Supervisor
- PV Construction Supervisor
- Solar Crew Chief
- Master Electrician

PV Design Specialist Certification
- PV System Design
- PV Design Engineer
- PV Electrical Designer
- Design Consultant
- Structural Engineer
- PV Design Manager

PV Installation Professional Certification
- PV System Designer
- PV Technical Salesperson
- PV Sales Manager
- PV Account Manager
- Business Development Associate
- PV Account Manager
- PV Technical Salesperson
- PV Sales Manager
- PV Account Manager
- Business Development Associate

PV Technical Sales Certification
- Marketing Manager
- Art Director
- Creative Director
- Advertising Director
- Solar Sales Consultant
- Marketing Consultant

PV System Inspector Certification
- Site Assessment: Solar Site Assessor, Project Developer, Interconnection Manager
- Inspection: PV Site Inspector, Solar QA Inspector, PV Construction Inspector

PV Installation Professional Certification
- Installation: PV Installer, Solar Crew Chief, PV Electrician, Master Electrician, Site Site Supervisor, PV Construction Supervisor

PV Commissioning & Maintenance Specialist Certification
- Commissioning: Interconnection Manager, Solar Project Developer, Site Site Assessor, Utility Interconnection Engineer

Maintenance
- Site Assessment: Solar Site Assessor, Project Developer, Interconnection Manager
- Inspection: PV Site Inspector, Solar QA Inspector, PV Construction Inspector
- Installation: PV Installer, Solar Crew Chief, PV Electrician, Master Electrician, Site Site Supervisor, PV Construction Supervisor

Sales
- PV Technical Salesperson
- PV Sales Manager
- PV Account Manager
- Business Development Associate

Marketing
- Marketing Manager
- Art Director
- Creative Director
- Advertising Director
- Solar Sales Consultant
- Marketing Consultant

Consulting
- Solar Site Assessor
- Project Developer
- Interconnection Manager
- PV Site Inspector
- Solar QA Inspector
- PV Construction Inspector
- PV Installer
- Solar Crew Chief
- PV Electrician
- Master Electrician
- Site Site Supervisor
- PV Construction Supervisor

Project Management
- Project Manager
- Project Assistant
- Project Director
- Solar Project Developer

Engineering
- PV Engineer
- PV Project Engineer
- Electrical Engineer
- Mechanical Engineer
- Field Project Engineer
The Value of Board Certifications in the Solar PV Industry

- **Benefits to PV Customers & Consumers**
  - Helps customer make more informed decisions
  - Improve quality assurance for customers
  - Lower overall cost of solar systems
  - Raise customer satisfaction levels
  - Can hold professionals accountable

- **Benefits to Employers in PV Industry:**
  - Make hiring decisions easier by giving more information
  - Save time & money by filling open positions with qualified candidates
  - Are a reliable predictor of employee success
  - Proof that candidates possess knowledge & skills to get the job done right
NABCEP Advances Solar Careers

- 60% of EPCs consider NABCEP Board Certifications “essential” or “very important” when hiring
- $11,000 average salary increase after earning NABCEP Board Certification
- 26% of NABCEP Board Certified Professionals end up starting their own solar businesses
Veterans & Solar - A Perfect Match!

● What the Solar Industry Needs From Workers
  ○ Leadership
  ○ Ability to effectively work in teams
  ○ Soft skills (i.e., punctual, organized, listens to instructions, etc.)
  ○ Mission-driven
  ○ Strength of character

● What Veterans Offer
  ○ All of the above
GI Bill for NABCEP Exam Reimbursement

All of NABCEP’s Board Certifications & Associate credential were recently approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs to receive reimbursement benefits under the G.I. Bill.

The NABCEP Board Certifications & Associate credential exams that are eligible for reimbursement are as follows:

- PV Associate Credential
- PV Installation Professional (PVIP) Board Certification
- PV Installer Specialist (PVIS) Board Certification
- PV Commissioning & Maintenance Specialist (PVCMS) Board Certification
- PV Technical Sales (PVTS) Board Certification
- PV System Inspector (PVSI) Board Certification
How to Get Started

● Find a Training Course
  ○ Go to www.nabcep.org
  ○ Check out our Course Catalog
  ○ Select a Registered Training Provider and sign up
  ○ Pass the PV Associate Credential Exam
  ○ Leverage the credential to find a job

● Resources
  ○ www.nabcep.org/veterans
  ○ Register for our virtual CE Conference!
Conclusions

● Why NABCEP?
  ○ NABCEP is the global leader in renewable energy certifications
  ○ NABCEP has decades-long proven track record with solar employers & employees alike
  ○ NABCEP helps employers and customers make informed decisions while helping Board Certified Professionals advance their careers

● Why Veterans?
  ○ Veterans received a tremendous amount of skills training in the military
  ○ Veterans can utilize their advanced technical skills to do good for their communities in the civilian sector
  ○ With the immense growth potential of the solar industry, veterans can play a big part in helping the industry succeed
Solar Career Map
www.irecsolarcareermap.org
Join the Solar Ready Vets Network

To stay current on resources and opportunities:

- Solar Education & Employment opportunities
- Certification Fast Tracks & GI Bill eligibility
- (Virtual) Career Fairs, career development resources
- “Service to Solar” profiles
- ...and more!

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