Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Installer

Wages

A Bureau of Labor Statistics article estimates that wages for entry-level solar PV installers were about $12.00 to $15.00 per hour in 2009. Crew leaders in this occupation could potentially earn between $20.00 and $25.00 per hour.

Selected Skills

- Attach solar photovoltaic modules to racking
- Diagram layout of solar photovoltaic modules and equipment
- Conduct performance testing of solar photovoltaic system
- Install solar photovoltaic racking
- Inspect photovoltaic modules and systems

Apprenticeship and License Information for Solar Photovoltaic Installers

In Oregon, solar photovoltaic (PV) installers must have a limited renewable energy technicians' license. Applicants for the limited license must have a high school diploma or equivalent; complete a two-year apprenticeship program; complete classroom training; and pass an exam.

Visit ***www.boli.state.or.us/BOLI/ATD/index.shtml*** for apprenticeship information. Details on licenses relevant to this occupation are available at ***cbs.state.or.us/bcd/licensing.html***

GREEN JOBS

Learn More About

Green Jobs...

QualityInfo.org/Green

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For additional brochures, please contact ***Lmipubs.emp@state.or.us***

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Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Installer

GREEN Jobs in Oregon

GREEN JOBS

A solar photovoltaic (PV) installer assembles, installs, or maintains solar panels and solar photovoltaic systems on roofs or other structures. Duties may include measuring, cutting, assembling, bolting structural framing and solar modules, and performing minor electrical work such as current checks.

All solar PV installers are considered "green" workers. Green workers have essential job duties in at least one of five categories included in the definition of a green job. Green jobs work to:

- Increase energy efficiency
- Produce renewable energy
- Prevent, reduce, or mitigate environmental degradation
- Clean up and restore the natural environment
- Educate, consult, and provide other services that support the above

Day in the Life of a Renewable Energy Designer/Installer: Tony Tomlinson

What exactly do you do in this job?
There is a lot of variety in this job. On any one day, I might help install a hot water system. I might talk to the homeowner about how the systems work. I troubleshoot. I have to be part plumber, part electrician, and part carpenter. If I can't do a particular part of the job, I work with the people who are licensed to do that work.

How does your job benefit the environment?
We sell environmentally friendly products. We help conserve power and water. Power is lost when it has to be transmitted over long distances. When you generate power at the source and consume it at the source, it is very efficient.

How can you best prepare for this job?
Educational programs gave me a good foundation. The renewable energy program and energy management program together took three years to complete. Either of these programs alone would have taken two years each. Product knowledge and attending seminars is also very helpful.

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Education and Training

Some training programs in Oregon geared toward this occupation include green courses or green components of courses. Selected green programs include, but are not limited to:

Energy and Resource Management
- Clackamas Community College
- Lane Community College

Introduction to Solar Power
- Blue Mountain Community College
- Mt. Hood Community College

Photovoltaic/Renewable Energy Systems Design
- Portland Community College
- Rogue Community College

Solar Photovoltaic Installation
- Klamath Community College
- Central Oregon Community College

Visit the Oregon Green Career Pathways website, ***OregonGreenPathways.org***, for more information on skills, opportunities, and training in solar and renewable energy.

Visit ***QualityInfo.org/Green*** for more information about green jobs in Oregon.