

New York State Green Occupation Spotlight



Solar Photovoltaic Installers

What do they do?

Assemble, install, or maintain solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on roofs or other structures in compliance with site assessment and schematics. May include measuring, cutting, assembling, and bolting structural framing and solar modules. May perform minor electrical work.

General Description

On average, how many openings are there per year?

There are some 40 openings annually for solar photovoltaic installers.

What is a typical entry-level wage?

\$17.33 hourly, \$36,000 annually

How should I prepare for the job?

New solar photovoltaic installers undergo on-the-job training for 1 to 12 months, and commonly have backgrounds in roofing or electrical work.

What types of employers might hire me?

Photovoltaic installers primarily work for local and regional firms whose entire business is devoted to solar design and installation. Self-employment and small businesses are common.

Where can I get training?*

- Bronx Community College, Center for Sustainable Energy
- Hostos Community College
- Solar One, New York, NY

*See a more complete list of training providers at www.greencareersny.com

Green Description



How many solar photovoltaic installers are working in a green job in New York State?

In construction trades, more than 1,400 green solar photovoltaic installers work at 330 firms.

What do employers say about recruiting them?

8% of businesses in construction trades that hire green solar photovoltaic installers report having difficulty recruiting qualified workers for these jobs.

What kind of green activities would I do?

Unsurprisingly, almost every solar photovoltaic installer is involved in placing solar photovoltaic systems. In addition to solar installations, a quarter of these installers are also involved in energy efficiency projects such as retrofitting and new construction.

How would I get the skills to do green projects?

Four out five firms (in construction trades) that employ solar photovoltaic installers prefer that these employees have enhanced skills. The most common source of this training is on-the-job-training and in-house training, followed by trade or technical schools.

For more Information about this occupation go to:

- www.onetonline.org/link/summary/47-4099.01

For more information about green jobs, go to:

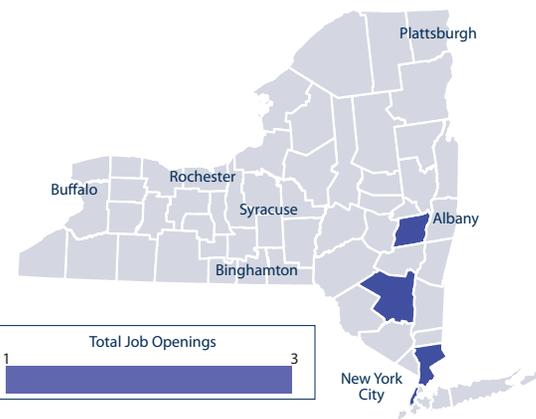
- Green Careers NY: www.greencareersny.com
- Labor Statistics: www.labor.ny.gov/stats/green

Case Study

The solar industry is still relatively small, although the talent pool is growing. One solar company in New York City noted that, "It's an industry that everybody wants to be in." People like renewable energy and think it is future-oriented.

Another industry employer said, "I mean, the bottom line is, you may love solar and you may like the idea of getting out and using your muscles and all that, but we have people right now, they're working (in temperatures) from 25 degrees to 100 degrees. And it's a special kind of person.... You're going to be out there on the roof on large installations for six weeks or two months.... You have to care and know about what you're doing, but you also have to be pretty tough."

Job Ads for Solar Photovoltaic Installers



Source: Geographic Solutions, ALMA©, 2nd Q 2011