

Digest of Green Reports and Studies

Title	Occupational Profiles for the Solar Industry
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Publication Type	Report – Literature Research
Publication Date	August 2008
# of Pages	10 pp
URL	http://www.irecusa.org/uploads/media/Occupational_Profiles_August_2008_Final.pdf
Summary	Since 2004, the IREC has been compiling information on occupational descriptions and titles for the solar industry focusing primarily on photovoltaics (PV) or solar electricity. With record growth in the solar industry there are corresponding changes in the occupational profiles associated with a maturing industry. Not long ago, solar installers handled many facets of the job, that is “one guy did it all”. Today, there is differentiation in job categories as markets grow; systems are moving from small residential ones to larger, commercial projects requiring a variety of contractors and crews; work is governed by state licensing laws; and consumers are looking for quality assurance through third-party credentialing programs.
Key Findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PV employs the most workers, on an energy capacity basis, among the renewables examined. • The leading activity in solar electricity production is module assembly, second is systems integration, and installation is the third leading activity. • The renewable energy sector generates more jobs than the fossil fuel-based energy sector per unit of energy delivered and the employment rate in fossil fuel-related industries has been declining.
Recommendations	N/A
Definition of “Green”	N/A
Methodology	N/A
Data Sources Cited	N/A
Report Geography	N/A
Green Occupations Cited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar Panel Installers • Photovoltaic Specialists • Solar Energy Engineer/Designers • Solar Energy System Installer • Solar Energy Foreman • Solar Installation Operation Managers • Installers, Service & Repair Technicians (Operations & Maintenance) • Sales Representatives/Marketers/Estimators • Site Surveyors/Assessors • Researchers & Scientists • Engineers/Designers • Trainers/Educators • Architects • Builders • Trade & Skilled Workers • Electric Power Utility Workers • Policy & Program Managers
Green Industries Cited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar Cell and Module Manufacturers • Photovoltaic Equipment Manufacturers • Balance of Systems (BOS) Manufacturers and Suppliers • System Integrators and Packagers • Distributors • Commodity Suppliers • Finance
Keywords	Solar
Legislation Cited	N/A
Bibliography (Y/N)	Yes (Endnotes)
Reviewer Name/Org	Parker, State of Tennessee, Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Statistics Section

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