

SOLAR POWER JOB MARKET REPORT



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Facts and Figures

Increasing the use of solar energy will provide a clean, reliable and domestic source of energy while creating millions of new jobs.

<http://www.geni.org>

CareerBuilder.com, the nation's largest online job site, released a December survey tracking projected hiring trends for 2009. One of the top hiring trends this year is green. Thirteen percent of employers surveyed said they plan to add "green jobs" in 2009, compared to one in 10 who say they added them in 2008. "Green jobs," were identified in the survey as positions that implement environmentally conscious design, policy and technology to improve conservation and sustainability.

(San Jose Business Journal, 20 February 2009)

<http://sanjose.bizjournals.com/sanjose/stories/2009/02/23/focus1.html?b=1235365200^1780867>

IMS Research, a market research company for the electronics industry, has claimed that its figures indicate a more than 40% growth rate in the solar inverter market. (PV Tech Daily News, 14 July 2008)

http://www.pv-tech.org/news/ a/ims_research_anticipates_40_growth_in_solar_inverter_market_in_2008/

With the right investments, the resulting green economy can generate a lot of good jobs at a far greater scale than a pollution-based economy. (Newsweek, 8 April 2008)

<http://www.newsweek.com/id/131038/page/1>

Of all the industries targeted by the stimulus, renewable energy is one of the most closely-watched. With the funding promoted as a way to create thousands of new "green collar" jobs and reduce the nation's dependence on foreign oil, these provisions are a big part of new president's long-term agenda. And this sector is glad for the attention. "There are so many ways that this is a good thing," says Aaron Hall, the CEO of Borrego Solar Systems, No. 261 on the Inc.500.

(Inc., 25 February 2009)

<http://www.inc.com/articles/2009/02/stimulus2.html>

Solar has grown rapidly, achieving an average annual growth of 25% or more over the past couple of decades.

Solar Power Jobs Report – Courtesy of JobsinSolarPower.com

http://www.greenjobs.com/public/info/industry_background.aspx?id=15

"Over the next two years, this plan will save or create 3.5 million jobs," Obama told members of Congress, the Supreme Court, and his Cabinet. "More than 90 percent of these jobs will be in the private sector – jobs rebuilding our roads and bridges; constructing wind turbines and **solar panels**; laying broadband and expanding mass transit."

(PC Magazine, 24 February 2009)

<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2341671,00.asp>

President Obama demonstrated his confidence in the solar jobs engine by visiting the solar installation at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science today before signing the economic recovery legislation.

(PR Newswire, 17 February 2009)

<http://sev.prnewswire.com/null/20090217/PH7190417022009-1.html>

According to the [Navigant Consulting economic study], by 2016, the solar energy industry would create 440,000 permanent U.S. jobs with much of the direct growth occurring in domestic manufacturing, construction and the trades. This figure reveals the strength of the solar job creation engine when compared to the current 79,000 direct employees of the coal mining industry and the 136,000 direct employees in oil and gas extraction.

(Renewable Energy World, 17 September 2008)

<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2008/09/if-congress-extends-itc-440000-solar-jobs-will-be-created-study-says-53592>

1,000 new solar industry jobs are forecasted for Michigan.

(Ann Arbor Business Review, 3 July 2008)

http://www.mlive.com/businessreview/annarbor/index.ssf/2008/07/1000_new_solar_jobs_forecast_f.html

Jobs in the solar business are expected to grow by an average of nearly 50 per cent over the next 12 months, says a new survey of the industry in the San Francisco Bay region and California.

The industry is struggling to fill new solar jobs, according to the joint study by two community colleges in the Bay Area. Solar companies in California currently employ between 16,500 to 17,500 people. Within the next year, another 5,000 positions are being added.

Solar Power Jobs Report – Courtesy of JobsinSolarPower.com

(EcoGeek, 19 May 2008)

<http://www.ecogeek.org/content/view/1648/83/>

Solar Energy demand has grown at about 30% per annum over the past 15 years (hydrocarbon energy demand typically grows between 0-2% per annum).

<http://www.solarbuzz.com/FastFactsIndustry.htm>

So far this session, Texas legislators have filed more than 20 bills dealing with solar and other forms of renewable energy, including a state sales-tax exemption, a green-jobs training program and a move to devote money from the Emerging Technology Fund to solar energy research.

(El Paso Times, 22 February 2009)

http://www.elpasotimes.com/politics/ci_11757802

Types of Jobs and Typical Salaries

Salaries and Job Trends





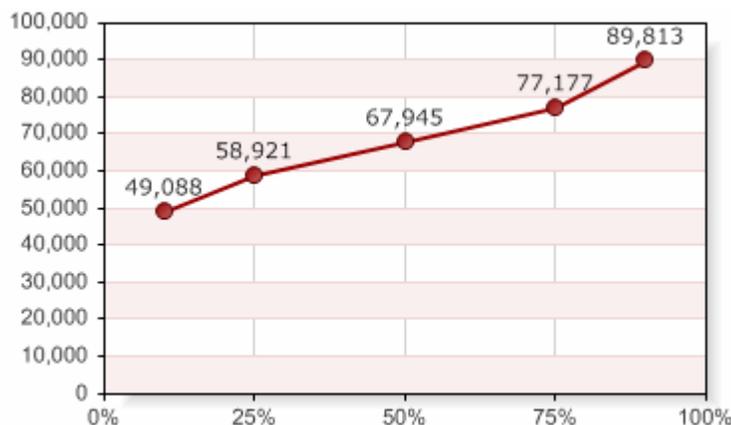
Average Salary of Jobs Matching Your Search



Average solar salaries for job postings nationwide are 23% higher than average salaries for all job postings nationwide.



Average Salary: Solar Power/ Solar Engineer



Types of Solar Jobs

Most high level employees in the solar power industry have advanced degrees and a long track record of success in the field. The solar power industry is one where an individual with a high school education can enter the field as an installer, and work his way up to being a technician. The higher level positions, such as engineers and managers require educational backgrounds in engineering, physics, the earth sciences, or management.

Solar Power Project Managers

The project manager acts as the overseer of the solar power site. Managers need to be experienced in all aspects of solar power operations. An advanced degree is preferred for this position, but a bachelor's degree in engineering, physics, or a field of earth science, and experience in the industry is accepted. Project managers need to hold many industry specific certifications.

Solar Power Engineers

The primary responsibility of an engineer on a solar power farm is the design and development of solar energy systems. Solar engineers have a role to play in all aspects of the solar power operation, from systems development to troubleshooting, and from research to management duties. Solar engineers have an educational background in engineering, or even physics. Many solar power companies will hire engineers from relevant field with the preferred amount of experience. Engineers are required to be certified and licensed.

Solar Technicians

The field technician is responsible for the examination and inspection of solar systems. Technicians also perform installation of solar systems, and perform service and repair duties. This is a position where experience outweighs education, and technicians usually spend 2-3 years as installers before being promoted.

Solar Installers

An excellent way to break into the solar power industry is as a solar panel installer. Solar installers are responsible for all installation aspects associated with solar systems, including electrical wiring and mounting. Although education is important, certification and experience in wiring, construction, and residential electrical installation is highly valued. Solar installers are usually paid by the hour, ranging from \$14-20 an hour depending on experience and location. The need for qualified solar electric system installers has been recognized in the USA through the establishment of a national certification program overseen by the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP).

Information from: <http://www.jobmonkey.com/greenjobs/solar-energy.html>

Training Schools and Programs

[Alternative Energy Institute](#)

AEI offers an introductory course in solar energy. Click on "What We Do" to see their latest offerings.

[Center for Energy & the Global Environment](#)

CEAGE offers a online course in alternative energy systems, which includes photovoltaics.

[Centre for Alternative Technology](#)

CAT provides residential courses in Europe on solar electricity.

[Solar Turbines: By Caterpillar](#)

Caterpillar provides courses in the US on solar turbines.

[Florida Solar Energy Center](#)

FSEC provides education and training in photovoltaics, including installation; this is primarily for engineers, contractors, practitioners, and code officials.

[Midwest Renewable Energy Association](#)

MREA offers photovoltaic systems workshops in the Midwest.

[North Carolina Solar Center](#) (NCSC)

Search NCSC for both consumer and contractor training and education in North Carolina.

[Solar Energy International](#)

SEI offers online courses and hands-on workshops in photovoltaic design and solar home design.

[Sol Energy](#)

This program features online courses in photovoltaic system design and installation, as well as solar building design and construction.

[Enersol Associates](#)

Enersol provides extensive training to participants in our AguaSol and EduSol programs. These programs are designed to help rural community residents take an important step toward becoming more independent and self-sustaining.

[Institute of Energy Conversion](#) (IEC) at the University of Delaware

IEC uses its unique multidisciplinary approach to provide students with opportunities ranging from purely theoretical research to laboratory work geared toward practical applications. Students involved with IEC learn how to interact effectively with engineers and scientists engaged in long-term research programs in photovoltaics.

[Institute of International Education](#)

Peace and prosperity in the 21st Century depend on increasing people's capacity to think and work on a global, intercultural basis. As technology opens borders, educational and professional exchange opens minds. The institute provides access to educational programs, including energy coursework, to improve socioeconomic conditions in many countries.

[Kyocera Solar, Inc.](#)

Kyocera Solar, Inc., operates a full-time training facility at its corporate headquarters in Scottsdale, Arizona. Trainers work with other industry experts to present complete, up-to-date courses. The curriculum includes general solar electric system courses and examines specialized market segments. In addition, staff can travel to a customer or project to conduct customized on-site workshops and seminars.

[Remote Power International](#) (RPI)

RPI specializes in courses for international development in photovoltaics, solar water heating, and appropriate technologies. The training programs are designed to help businesses and others develop skills for implementing renewable energy applications.

[Solar Electric Light Fund](#)

The Solar Electric Light Fund, Inc. (SELF) is a nonprofit charitable organization founded in 1990 to promote, develop, and facilitate solar rural electrification and energy SELF-sufficiency in developing countries. Click on "Links and Resources" to see "Solar Education" opportunities.

[Solar Energy International](#)

Solar Energy International (SEI) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide education and technical assistance so that others will be empowered to use renewable energy technologies. Workshops in solar electricity, solar home design, and other renewable energy applications are available.

[Southwest Technology Development Institute](#) (SWTDI)

SWTDI has provided hundreds of training courses for thousands of participants from around the world since 1977. The Institute trains a wide variety of people, including project developers, electrical inspectors, engineers, homeowners, and bankers. Courses range from practical hands-on classes to detailed engineering, financing, and economic development courses.

[US AID, Energy Training Program](#)

As part of the U.S. Agency for International Development (US AID) organization, the Center for Human Capacity Development is responsible for implementing the agency's goal of "Building Human Capacity Through Education and Training." The center provides field support, technical leadership, and research to help nations and field operations improve education and training and to assist in developing stable, democratic countries with thriving market economies and healthy, well-educated families. This support also includes energy training programs.

Programs in Michigan

Advanced PV System Integrator Certification

Offered: Once per year

Targeted Audience:

PV-experienced individuals in the utility industry, building and engineering professions, state and local inspection agencies, electrical contracting and for current practitioners in the renewable energy or distributed generation field.

Program Goals & Objectives:

This program expands on the training of GLREA's PV Apprentice Course and provides advanced training that builds professional proficiency in optimal photovoltaic system design, application, business management and ethics for meeting the requirements of electric utility, state and local electrical standards.

Contact Information:

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Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association

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Dimondale, MI 48821

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www.glrea.org

Building a Solar Panel Workshop

Offered: Twice per year

Targeted Audience:

General market - homeowners, people who own cabins, RVs, etc. where they may not have access to the grid.

Program Goals & Objectives:

Teach people how to build a small-scale solar panel system (powers items that use no more than 500 watts). All of the supplies are provided and participants take the system home.

Contact Information:

Maribeth Groen

Pierce Cedar Creek Institute

701 W Cloverdale Rd

Hastings, MI 49058

Phone: 269-721-4190

Fax: 269-721-4474

groenm@cedarcreekinstitute.org

www.cedarcreekinstitute.org

Intermediate Solar Heating Seminar

Offered: 2 times per year

Targeted Audience:

Solar installers, homeowners, business people, and the public who are interested in learning detailed information about solar thermal systems.

Program Goals & Objectives:

This comprehensive seminar offers a technical level explanation of how various types of solar heating systems operate, their advantages and disadvantages, and issues regarding deployment in northern climates. Solar domestic hot water systems are discussed, as well as radiant floor heating systems, space heating with solar heated air panels, and dual mode air systems. Solar pool heating systems are covered briefly. This seminar elaborates on the material covered in GLREA's Introductory Renewable Energy Seminar on solar water and space heating systems.

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Introduction to Solar Photovoltaic Electric Technology

Offered: 4 times per year

Targeted Audience:

Homeowners, business people and the public who are interested in learning more about photovoltaic electric systems.

Program Goals & Objectives:

Students gain a basic understanding of photovoltaic (PV) technology, inverters, batteries, and the function of a PV system. Students also learn about how these systems perform in Michigan and northern climates, and about what type of system will perform best for specific locations. The advantages and disadvantages of grid-intertied and battery backup systems are discussed.

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Introduction to Solar Water and Space Heating Systems

Offered: 4 times per year

Targeted Audience:

Homeowners, business people and the public who are interested in learning more about solar thermal systems.

Program Goals & Objectives:

Participants learn how to use the sun's energy for domestic uses (showers, sinks, washing machines) and for home heating. Attention is given to how these systems are easy to install and often pay for themselves in energy savings in just a few years. The class provides an overview of a variety of water and space heating systems.

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Photovoltaic Apprentice Training

Offered: Twice per year

Targeted Audience:

Individuals beginning a career as a PV system integrator, an electrical or mechanical engineer or a professional in the building construction industry

Program Goals & Objectives:

Combines classroom sessions with field experience to introduce the participant to distributed generation technologies and interconnection issues.

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Photovoltaic Intermediate Seminar

Offered: Twice per year

Targeted Audience:

Individuals interested in learning more about photovoltaic technology and those interested in moving towards PV certification.

Program Goals & Objectives:

Students will gain a more in-depth understanding of the components that make up a Photovoltaic (PV) electric system and how PV works. Participants will learn how to: define a load analysis, site selection, energy efficiency measures, techniques, and system sizing.

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Programs in Ohio

Photovoltaic Apprentice Training at Owens Community College

Offered: Once per year

Targeted Audience:

Individuals beginning a career as a PV system integrator, an electrical or mechanical engineer or a professional in the building construction industry

Program Goals & Objectives:

Combines classroom sessions with field experience to introduce the participant to distributed generation technologies and interconnection issues.

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Programs in Wisconsin

Advanced Photovoltaics I

Offered: Twice per year

Targeted Audience:

Site assessors, trades people, installers, ambitious homeowners

Program Goals & Objectives:

To gain understanding of PV installation techniques, code issues, safety concerns, etc. by installing a PV system at a residence or business.

Contact Information:

Tehri Parker
Midwest Renewable Energy Association
7558 Deer Road
Custer, WI 54423
Phone: 715-592-6595
Fax: 715-592-6596
tehri@the-mrea.org
www.the-mrea.org

Advanced Photovoltaics II

Offered: Once per year

Targeted Audience:

Site assessors, installers working toward NABCEP certification, and others

Program Goals & Objectives:

Develop participants understanding of PV by installing a system and classroom sessions focused on NEC, NABCEP, etc.

Contact Information:

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Custer, WI 54423
Phone: 715-592-6595

Fax: 715-592-6596

tehri@the-mrea.org

www.the-mrea.org

Basic PV / Site Assessor Course & Certification

Offered: 4 times per year

Targeted Audience:

Homeowners interested in PV systems and business folks interested in learning how to conduct site assessments.

Program Goals & Objectives:

Teach basic solar site assessment skills including defining solar window, load analysis, and system sizing.

Contact Information:

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Certificate in Energy Management and Renewable Energy

Technologies - Photovoltaic Emphasis

Offered:

Will be introduced Fall 2006 / the school intends to offer the course on a recurring basis

Targeted Audience:

Associates of Applied Science (AAS) degree students, trade apprenticeship students and incumbent workers

Program Goals & Objectives:

To complement technical training in the traditional trades with solar technology curriculum to provide a highly skilled renewable energy workforce.

Contact Information:

Ken Walz

Madison Area Technical Colleges

3550 Anderson Street

Madison, WI 53703

Phone: 608-246-6521

Fax: 608-246-6880

kwalz@matcmadison.edu

www.matcmadison.edu

Certificate in Energy Management and Renewable Energy
Technologies - Solar Thermal Emphasis

Offered:

Will be introduced Fall 2006 / the school intends to offer the course on a recurring basis

Targeted Audience:

Associates of Applied Science (AAS) degree students, trade apprenticeship students
and incumbent workers

Program Goals & Objectives:

To complement technical training in the traditional trades with solar technology
curriculum to provide a highly skilled renewable energy workforce.

Contact Information:

Ken Walz

Madison Area Technical Colleges

3550 Anderson Street

Madison, WI 53703

Phone: 608-246-6521

Fax: 608-246-6880

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www.matcmadison.edu

Focus On Energy

Targeted Audience:

Residential, Business and Industrial Customers through Wisconsin

Program Goals & Objectives:

Public / Private partnership offering energy information and services to residential,
business, and industrial customers throughout Wisconsin.

Contact Information:

Don Wichert

Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation

211 S Paterson St., 3rd Floor

Madison, WI 53703

Phone: 800-969-9322

donw@weccusa.org

www.focusonenergy.com

Intermediate Photovoltaics

Offered: 4 times per year

Targeted Audience:

Site assessors, homeowners, trades people interested in knowing more about PV

Program Goals & Objectives:

To provide participants with a greater understanding of PV systems and the components. Installation of a small battery-based system helps develop this understanding.

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Renewable Energy Interconnection

Offered:

Once per year / usually in Spring

Targeted Audience:

Journeyman & Master Electricians, inspectors, Electrical apprentices, PV Installers

Program Goals & Objectives:

Summarize renewable energy systems, summarize Wisconsin renewable energy policies, Summarize electrical equipment used in renewable energy systems, Apply the National Electric Code to renewable energy systems, Perform calculations applicable to renewable energy systems

Contact Information:

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Lakeshore Technical College
1290 North Avenue
Cleveland, WI 53015
Phone: 920-693-1267
Fax: 920-693-8019
jen.eigenberger@gotoltc.edu
www.gotoltc.edu

Solar Domestic Hot Water Systems

Offered: 3 times per year

Targeted Audience:

Homeowners interested in SDHW systems and trades and business folk interested in solar hot water options.

Program Goals & Objectives:

Teach basic understanding of SDHW system sizing, system components and system process and function.

Contact Information:

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Solar Hot Water Site Assessor Course & Certification

Offered: Once per year

Targeted Audience:

Business folks, trades people, site assessors interested in learning how to conduct solar hot water site assessment.

Program Goals & Objectives:

Teach basic solar hot water systems and site assessment skills including: defining solar window, hot water / heating consumption analysis and system sizing.

Contact Information:

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Solar Space Heating Systems

Offered: 3 times per year

Targeted Audience:

Homeowners, trades people and business folk interested in solar space heating systems.

Program Goals & Objectives:

Teach basic understanding of solar space heating systems including system types, system components, and system sizing.

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Women's Basic PV / Site Assessor Course

Offered: Once per year

Targeted Audience:

Women, homeowners, business people

Program Goals & Objectives:

Teach basic solar site assessment skills including defining solar window, load analysis, and system sizing in an atmosphere comfortable for women.

Contact Information:

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Major Employers in Solar Power

AEE Solar - <http://www.aeesolar.com/careers.html>

AVA Solar - <http://www.avasolar.com/>

Ausra Inc. -

<http://newton.gravitypeople.com/career/CareerHome.action?clientId=8a71c8f41862be1f01187c6c5c5304ed>

Borrego Solar - <http://www.borregosolar.com/solar-energy-company/careers/index.php>

BP Solar- <http://www.bp.com/careers.do?categoryId=122&contentId=7047930>

Chesapeake Solar - <http://www.chesapeakeolar.net/careers.php>

Solar Turbines (CAT) - <http://mysolar.cat.com/cda/layout?m=6637&x=7>

eSolar- <http://esolar.com/about/careers.html>

Evergreen Solar - <http://jobs->

evergreensolar.icims.com/jobs/intro;jsessionid=0D4A5CF88396ADE5EB3FFF55A4186FAF

First Solar - <http://tbe.taleo.net/NA3/ats/careers/jobSearch.jsp?org=FIRSTSOLAR&cws=1>

Greenvolts - <http://www.greenvolts.com/about/careers/>

Heliovolt - <http://tbe.taleo.net/NA5/ats/careers/jobSearch.jsp?cws=1&org=HELIOVOLT>

Maisole - <http://www.miasole.com/careers.shtml>

Namaste Solar - http://namastesolar.com/career_ops.html

Nanosolar- <http://www.jobvite.com/CompanyJobs/Jobs.aspx?c=qTV9VfwC>

Optisolar - <http://www.optisolar.com/careers.htm>

Pyron - http://www.pyronsolar.com/career_jobs.html

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REC Solar-

<http://tbe.taleo.net/NA5/ats/careers/searchResults.jsp?org=RECSOLAR&cws=1>

Recurrent Energy - <http://www.recurrentenergy.com/company/careers.php>

Skyline Solar - <http://skyline-solar.com/>

Solar1 - <http://solar1.org/about/jobs-at-solar-one/>

Solar Works - <http://www.solarworksinc.com/about/careers.php>

Solaria - <http://www.solaria.com/index.php?command=careers&base=4&before=0>

SolarCity- <http://www.solarcity.com/solar/hr/careers.aspx>

Solar Reserve - <http://www.solar-reserve.com/contactUs.html>

SolFocus - http://www.solfocus.com/Career.php?l_id=1

Solyndra- <http://www.solyndra.com/About-Us/Careers>

Sun Light & Power - <http://www.sunlightandpower.com/about/employment.html>

Sun Run - <http://www.sunrunhome.com/about/careers.html>

SunEdison - <http://www.sunedison.com/aboutus-careers.php>

SunEnergy Power Corporation - <http://www.sunenergypower.com/careers.asp>

Suniva - <http://www.suniva.com/careers.php>

SV Solar- <http://www.sv-solar.com/careers/careers.html>

Staffing Firms – Solar

Entech Resources - <http://www.entechresources.com/>

MRI network - <http://www.mrinetwork.com/>

THINK Energy Group - <http://www.thinkenergygroup.com/>

Belcan - <http://www.belcan.com/>

Datamatics Consultants Inc - <http://www.datamatics.us/>

Smartlink LLC - <http://www.smartlinkllc.com/>

Tristaff Group - <http://www.tristaff.com/>

Linium - <http://www.linium.com/>

New World Staffing - <http://www.newworldstaffing.org/green-jobs.htm>

HDR Inc <http://www.hdrinc.com/>

Kelly Scientific - <http://www.kellyscientific.com/web/global/ksr/en/pages/>

Cybercoders - <http://cybercoders.com/>

Energy Placement - <http://www.energyplacement.com/>

Aerotek - <http://www.aerotek.com/>

Redfish - <http://redfishtech.com/>

Renewable Recruits - <http://renewablerecruits.com/>

Purifi Recruiters - <http://purifi.com/>

Solar Staffing - <http://www.solarstaffing.com/employers/>

Solar Power Jobs Report – Courtesy of JobsinSolarPower.com

Solar Jobs USA - <http://www.solarjobsusa.com/>

Find More Solar Power Employers

Indeed.com - <http://www.indeed.com/jobs?q=solar&l=>

Green Collar Blog - <http://www.greencollarblog.org/solar-jobs.html>

Solar Power Directory - <http://www.solarpowerdirectoryusa.com/>

Yahoo! Directory -

[http://dir.yahoo.com/Business and Economy/Business to Business/Energy/Renewable/Solar/](http://dir.yahoo.com/Business_and_Economy/Business_to_Business/Energy/Renewable/Solar/)

Solar Directory - <http://www.solarpowerdirectory.com/>

Eco Business Links - <http://www.ecobusinesslinks.com/>

Dmoz - <http://www.dmoz.org/Business/Energy/Renewable/Solar/>

Business.com's Directory -

http://www.business.com/directory/energy_and_environment/alternative_energy/solar_and_photovoltaic/

Masterseek - <http://energy-and-raw-materials.masterseek.com/q/ms37463/0/7/Solar-Power-0.htm?l=en>

Solar Stocks List - <http://energy.financialnirvana.com/solar-stocks/>

Solar Electric Power Association: Member List -

<http://www.solarelectricpower.org/?page=about&display=memberlist>