

CAREER TALK

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLER

Want a job that's hot? This career is so bright you'll have to wear shades! Solar photovoltaic installer is one of many booming career tracks in solar energy.



What do they do?

Solar photovoltaic installers assemble, install, or maintain solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on roofs or other structures in compliance with site assessment and schematics. This may include measuring, cutting, assembling, and bolting structural framing and solar modules. They may perform minor electrical work such as current checks.

Average Salary

\$44,890

Job Duties

- Plan PV system configurations based on customer needs and site conditions
- Install solar modules, panels, and support structures in accordance with building codes and standards
- Connect PV panels to the electrical system
- Activate and test PV systems
- Perform routine PV system maintenance

Works Schedule

Residential installers work on rooftops and in attics and crawl spaces to connect panels to the electric grid. PV installers who build solar farms work at ground level and need to build structures to hold the PV panel framework. They typically work more than 40 hours per week and an irregular work schedule that changes depending on weather conditions, customer demand or contract duration.

Education Requirements

Most solar photovoltaic (PV) installers receive training at a technical school or community college. Courses range from basic safety and PV knowledge to system design. Some PV installers learn to install panels as part of an apprenticeship. Although not mandatory, Solar Photovoltaic Installers may obtain certification from the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners. You can study Solar Energy Technology at Harrisburg Area Community College or the Pennsylvania College of Technology. Local vocational and technical schools like Triangle Tech will help you gain electrical and construction background.

Job Outlook, 2018 – 2028

68% (much faster than average)

For more information on a career as a solar photovoltaic installer click these links.

<https://www.careeronestop.org/videos/careeronestop-videos.aspx?videocode=47409902>

https://youtu.be/k46_I9_vCOU