Learning to Licensure

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Interstate Renewable Energy Council
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Pat is the Director of Operations for the Interstate Renewable Energy Council. In this role she is leading IREC’s Institute for Sustainable Power Quality (ISPQ) Accreditation & Certification Programs. Pat is an ISPQ Registered Auditor and serving as a founding member and Chair of the Waltham Energy Action Committee for the City of Waltham, Massachusetts. Representing IREC, Pat also serves as an alternate on the Board of NABCEP and is the lead author for IREC’s Solar Licensing database.
Abstract

Understanding the information you need to enter the energy efficiency and renewable energy workforce can be a challenge. There are thousands of places available which offer information on training and very few places which offer information on what licensing is required to do the job once you’ve been trained. So, where do you start?

This session will explore the national resources available through the Interstate Renewable Energy Council website related to training, workforce development and licensing requirements for solar installations. We will discuss the information available, how students and educators can leverage these tools, and the evolving complex licensing requirements for solar installations across the US.
NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

- News from DSIRE: week of 3/7/11
- IREC ISPO New Application for Course Additions to Accredited Training Programs Available
- The Value of Credentials: quality training builds excellence in the clean energy workforce
- DOE releases updated Guide to help communities go solar
- Surviving the ISPO Application Process, part 1
- IREC ISPO Candidate Handbook Update Available
- Exhibitor Opportunities Now Available for 2011 CEWEC
- Good Teaching Matters: five teaching practices to improve the quality of a training course
- 4th Edition of Freeing the Grid: does your state make the grade?
- IREC Releases First Model Program Rules for Community Renewables
- Solar Licensing Database
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

IREC has taken a leadership role in developing quality and competency standards for solar and renewable energy professionals and training programs. In this section, you'll find the latest information about states and industry building a strong and qualified renewable energy workforce. You'll also be able to search through our extensive database of renewable energy training providers.

Resources
- IREC Renewable Energy Training: Best Practices and Recommended Guidelines
- Charting Your Solar Course (from April/May 2010 Home Power Magazine)
- Workforce Development: A Survey Of Industry Needs and Training Approaches
- Workforce Dev. Framework
- Trends in Practitioner Training
- Certification or Licensure?
- Credentialing — What's in a Name?

Workforce Development News

Exhibitor Opportunities Now Available for 2011 CESPEC
January 30th, 2011

Tips on Seeking a Renewable Energy Degree
EDUCATION INFORMATION

Whether you are interested in joining the expanding renewable energy workforce or simply want to expand your knowledge, you can find a program here that meets your needs.

Universities across the country are adding courses and developing programs in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency. Our University Courses directory includes information on four-year universities offering undergraduate and graduate courses in renewable energy and energy efficiency.

If you are looking for programs that are less than four years, workshops, or hands-on training, visit our companion directory of Training Providers for renewable energy training courses.

While the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) makes a reasonable effort to maintain current and accurate information in these directories, IREC cannot and does not warrant or guarantee the accuracy, completeness, timeliness, or fitness of the information contained herein. IREC does not assume any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information, apparatus, product or process that is referred to or linked to. Reference to any specific
Are you listed?
IREC ISPQ Accreditation & Certification Program

ISPQ AWARDEES

Edited Programs and Certified Trainers/Instructors are listed by region. Click on the map or the links at left to see recipients in your area.
Solar Licensing Database

The Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC), supported by the US Department of Energy (DOE), has created a Solar Licensing Database as a resource for policy makers, practitioners, consumers, and anyone else looking for solar licensing information in the U.S. The state-by-state information offers a handy comparison for reviewing the different approaches across state lines, and identifies various practices for regulating the solar installation industry.

In the database, licensing requirements for installing photovoltaic and solar thermal systems are documented for each state. These are organized alphabetically. Today, only 14 states have established specific solar license classifications, usually sub-classifications of electrical or plumbing licenses, and often specifically defined to limit the scope of work to direct solar installations and maintenance tasks. For additional information, resource links to state-specific websites and documents are included. IREC will update the database to keep pace with those changes as they become available.

As licensing requirements emerge and change in individual states, IREC felt it could contribute by providing this resource of existing requirements that can be used as a reference tool,” said IREC’s Director of Operations, Pat Fox.

“IREC is broadly recognized as a unique resource and conduit for change in the renewable energy arena. This database is just one of many IREC resources it offers free of charge to the public,” said Fox.

As always, we welcome comments, feedback or contributions of information. Please email Pat Fox with any thoughts, and thanks for your input on this important topic.

Acknowledgements
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Compiled by Pat Fox, Director of Operations
Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC)

- State specific information
- Trade licenses
- Solar specific licensing
- Managed through incentives
- Licensing & Links
PUBLICATIONS & REPORTS FROM IREC

Here you'll find IREC papers, reports and other publications, all designed to help advance renewable energy in your community, and easily downloadable.

**Good Teaching Matters: Five Teaching Practices to Improve the Quality of a Training Course**
Originally released as a five-part series for the IREC website, Dr. Barbara Martin's comprehensive work on important teaching practices that can improve the quality of a training course are combined here in one complete report. Whether you're an educator or a student, you'll find Good Teaching Matters useful in your work. (December 2010)

**Model Program Rules for Community Renewables**
IREC's new model rules consider many of the basic issues facing community renewables programs. These include: renewable system size, interconnection, eligibility for participation, allocation of the benefits flowing from participation, and net metering of system production. IREC developed the model program rules for community-scale renewable systems working closely with The Vote Solar Initiative, Self-Generation Policy Act (SGPA), and others. (2010)

**Solar Licensing**
Solar Licensing Database

[IREC home page link]
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