

Electrical Pre-Apprenticeship and Solar PV Basics Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible for the program?

Honorably-discharged veterans with a DD-214, who are residents of Pennsylvania and have their own transportation, are eligible. Trainees will be selected based on assessment testing, personal interview, physical aptitude and capability, education, employment history, and military background.

What type of assessment testing will be required?

Selected subtests from the WorkKeys® assessment battery will be administered at the PA CareerLink® Bucks County. Subtests include Reading for Information, Locating Information, Applied Mathematics, Applied Technology, and Personal Skills. A physical capability assessment will also be required. Minimum requirements are: ability to lift 50 pounds, bend, twist, and climb ladders; no fear of working in small, enclosed spaces; ability to work out-of-doors in hot and cold temperatures; no sight impairment; no hearing impairment.

Is there financial aid for the program?

Trainees may be eligible to receive financial assistance for tuition, based on eligibility requirements. The Program Coordinator will assist the applicant in determining possible funding options.

What other services will be available?

Support services including personal skill building, financial skills training, counseling, and job search/retention will be provided. Additional services such as childcare and housing assistance may be available on a case by case basis.

When is the registration deadline?

The registration deadline is **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2010**

When does the program start?

Cohort 2 is scheduled to start on **MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2011.**

What is the schedule of classes for the Electrical Pre-Apprenticeship and Solar PV Basics program?

This is a full-time, 5-day per week program, for approximately 12 weeks. Veterans will work and train as a group Monday-Friday from approximately 8am-5pm or as required at the Green Jobs Academy in Bristol or other designated sites. Attendance and participation in all activities are required for the duration of the program except in the case of illness or exigent circumstances.

Where will the program be held?

The program will be based at the Bucks County Community College Green Jobs Academy, located at the Bridge Business Center in Bristol, PA. There will also be opportunity for hands-on experience at work sites throughout the program.

What will the training be like?

Training will be a combination of traditional classroom style lecture, daily hands-on practice and instruction, work-site internships and service learning activities. Personal development, remediation and teambuilding activities will be embedded into the course. The course content will focus on entry level skills in the electrical and Solar PV fields.

What does the program prepare me to do?

The program will prepare you to enter the “green” career pathways through programs focused on Electrical Pre-Apprenticeship and Solar PV basics resulting in the opportunity to sit for the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners’ (NABCEP) Entry Level Exam. Veterans successfully completing the program will be prepared to obtain entry-level employment as an Electrical Apprentice or in the field of solar PV installation. Highly successful trainees may also be eligible to sit for the First Year Apprentice “Skip” Exam, which, if passed, enables them to proceed right into Year 2 of an Electrical Apprenticeship Program.

How do I apply?

Start the application process by calling the Bucks County Community College Green Jobs Academy at 215-788-3594 or emailing greenjobsacademy@bucks.edu. A Bucks County Community College Green Jobs Academy staff member will help you complete an initial application form.

What if I am qualified but am not selected for the January 2011 Cohort 2?

Applicants, who are qualified but not selected for Cohort 2, will meet with the Program Coordinator to discuss other upcoming training program opportunities.

I already have training/experience in the electrical field in my military career. Is this program right for me?

The program will focus on entry level skills in the electrical and Solar PV fields. If you have previous training and work experience in the electrical field, you should discuss your history and interests with the Program Coordinator to make a determination about whether this or another Veterans Green Jobs program is right for you.

How do I find more information?

For more information, go to www.bucks.edu/green, call the Green Jobs Academy at 215-788-3594 or e-mail greenjobsacademy@bucks.edu.

Traditional Electrician Pathway

Training	Job	Salary
Electrical Pre-Apprenticeship	Training leads to entry level electrical position as an Electrical Apprentice	Average starting salary: \$15-\$18 per hour
Electrical Apprenticeship (4 years paid on-the-job and classroom training)	Electrical Apprentice	Average salary: \$18-\$26 per hour
Completion of Apprenticeship	Journeyman Electrician	Average salary: \$18-\$27 per hour
Additional 3-4 years work experience and pass a test	Master Electrician	Average salary: \$48-\$57 per hour

Renewable Energy Pathway

Training	Job	Salary
Solar PV Basics Course/NABCEP Entry Level Exam	Training leads to entry level position as a Solar Panel Installation Technician , working under the direction of a certified PV Solar Installer	Average starting salary: \$15-\$18 per hour
Solar PV Installer Training/NABCEP PV Solar Installer Certification; or	PV Solar Installer	Average salary: \$17-\$31 per hour
Additional education and training in the emerging "green" technologies	Smart Grid Technician, Electrical Engineer , various evolving and emerging jobs in the "green" technologies	Average salary: Smart Grid Technician: \$29,000 -\$49,000 per year; Electrical Engineer \$56,000-\$79,000 per year
Other emerging training, including Wind, Electrical Vehicles, Geothermal, Urban Farming, etc.	TBD	TBD