There are 242,343 Americans working in solar as of 2018, according to The Solar Foundation’s latest National Solar Jobs Census. Visit SolarStates.org to view an interactive map of solar jobs in 2018 by state, county, metro area, and congressional district.

Washington added solar jobs in 2018, and support for renewable energy at the state and local levels makes the state well positioned for future growth.

**STATE SOLAR JOBS:** 4,045

**STATE RANKING FOR SOLAR JOBS:** 19

**STATE RANKING FOR SOLAR JOBS PER CAPITA:** 25

- New Solar Jobs, 2018: 612
- Solar Jobs Growth, 2018: 17.8%
- State Rank by Net Solar Jobs Added, 2018: 6
- Projected Jobs Growth, 2019: 3.7%
- Percentage of State Solar Workers Who Are Veterans: 7.6%

**SOLAR JOBS BY SECTOR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Jobs</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INSTALLATION</td>
<td>2,875</td>
<td>(24% increase)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MANUFACTURING</td>
<td>565</td>
<td>(9% decrease)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHOLESALE TRADE &amp; DISTRIBUTION</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>(12% decrease)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPERATIONS &amp; MAINTENANCE</td>
<td>199</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>(24% decrease)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOLAR INDUSTRY CONTEXT**

- **176 MW** CUMULATIVE INSTALLED SOLAR CAPACITY¹
- **31** STATE RANKING FOR INSTALLED SOLAR CAPACITY¹
- **ENOUGH SOLAR TO POWER 16,894 HOMES¹²**
- **166** Solar Companies²
- **72** K-12 Solar Schools⁴
- **2.5%** K-12 Schools Have Gone Solar⁴
- **0.12%** of State’s Electricity Generation from Solar³

Learn more at SolarStates.org
TOP METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS FOR SOLAR JOBS

2,963
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue

404
Bellingham

142
Portland-Vancouver-Beaverton

DID YOU KNOW?
The life expectancy of solar panels in Seattle is 50 years due to its cool climate, as opposed to a 30-year life expectancy in desert climates like Phoenix.

WASHINGTON

SOLAR POLICY CONTEXT

Solar installations up to 100 kW receive compensation for solar sent back to the grid credited at the retail rate. The number of systems covered under net metering is set at 0.5% of utility’s 1996 peak demand.

STATE INSTALLER LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

Electrician’s License

RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD

15% by 2020

RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD CARVEOUTS

Distributed Generation receives a 2x multiplier toward RPS

COMMUNITY SOLAR
N/A

COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION STATUS
CCA Not Available

LEGAL STATUS OF THIRD PARTY OWNERSHIP
Status Unclear or Unknown

PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY FINANCING (PACE) STATUS
N/A

16% Employers Reporting It Was “Very Difficult” to Hire Qualified Employees

50 STATE RANKING FOR AVERAGE ELECTRICITY PRICE
(Highest to Lowest)

7.97 CENTS/kWh AVERAGE ELECTRICITY PRICE

1 Wood Mackenzie, Limited and Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA), U.S. Solar Market Insight
2 SEIA, National Solar Database
3 U.S. Energy Information Administration
5 https://westseattlenaturalenergy.com/5-interesting-facts/
6 Freeing the Grid 2015, a joint project of Vote Solar, Interstate Renewable Energy Council, and EQ Research
7 National Solar Licensing Map, Interstate Renewable Energy Council
8 Shared Renewables HQ, an initiative of Vote Solar in partnership with Lee Barken
9 Local Energy Aggregation Network
10 North Carolina Clean Technology Center at North Carolina State University, Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency
11 PACENation, available at pacenation.us/pace-programs/
12 SEIA