

For Immediate Release  
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### **REV Begins PV Training Program**

MONTPELIER—Renewable Energy Vermont (REV) will train licensed electricians and apprentices, as well as solar contractors, in the latest solar electric (photovoltaic) technologies. Training will include siting, design, installation and maintenance of photovoltaic energy systems in Vermont. In the first year, using a “train the trainer” model, approximately ten instructors will be trained. These instructors will deliver three (3) twenty-four hour courses to between 60 and 75 trainees at locations that will provide statewide training access.

This program is a direct response to our members’ need for accessible training in proper PV installation techniques. It is also driven by the State Apprenticeship Council’s urgent need to develop a PV training option for apprentices and licensed electricians. In the current economy, it’s crucial that workers learn the latest renewable energy technology to be competitive now and in the future. The REV training program is designed to enhance job security, as well as improve participants’ opportunities for immediate advancement.

- a. The “train the trainers” course will be March 9–11 held at the Green Mountain Power headquarters in Colchester by renowned PV training expert Bill Brooks of Brook’s Engineering, using his own curriculum and training materials. Trainees will include experienced solar contractors, as well as master electricians who are currently instructors in the registered apprenticeship electrical program. From this class, several instructors will be chosen to deliver the courses at the regional level.
- b. During the second phase of the project, the newly trained instructors deliver three (3) twenty-four-hour PV courses at regional locations that provide access for apprentices, licensed electricians and solar contractors statewide. Training will be designed for delivery in 8-hour sessions, not necessarily on consecutive days, to limit disruption of work schedules. Tentatively, sessions would be offered in Burlington, Randolph and Rutland.

We project that a minimum of ten individuals will complete the “train the trainer” session, and another 60 to 75 people will complete the three regional courses. Current economic factors make it impossible to predict how many trainees will enter new jobs or receive pay increases as a direct result of training. However, we are confident that PV training will significantly increase their current and future job security, while improving their prospects for job advancement. Moreover, Vermont employers must be able to compete in this sector or the work will go to out-of-state contractors/installers. REV is now taking reservations for the regional training classes. Licensed electricians and experienced solar contracts are encouraged to reserve a space in the class today. Contact REV for more information.

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