



CAREER OF THE WEEK: Solar Panel Installer

What does a solar panel installer do?

Solar panel installers set up solar panels to convert sunshine into renewable energy. They can be installed on the roof of your house or on top of buildings like hospitals and offices. They are also installed in fields in large solar farms.

As well as installing the panels, the solar panel installer is responsible for maintaining them and ensuring that they are safe and efficient.

A solar panel installer is a 'green job' which will contribute to the necessary reduction in carbon emissions that countries across the world need to make to reduce the effects of global warming.

What can I expect to earn as a solar panel installer?

Salaries for a newly trained solar panel installer start in the region of £17,000 - £18,000 per annum. This can rise with experience to around £36,000 per annum. Some solar panel installers work on a contract basis across the UK and can earn over £50,000 per annum.

What subjects should I study to become a solar panel installer?

You will usually need a minimum of 2 GCSEs at grades 3 to 9, including English and maths, to start an electrical installation course. Some colleges or training providers may require 4 to 5 GCSEs at grade 4 to 9.

Anyone with an interest in maths, science, engineering or design & technology could consider a career as a solar panel installer. The job would suit someone who enjoys practical, hands-on work.

How can I start my career as a solar panel installer?

There are several routes that you could follow to become a solar panel installer. You could start by gaining your electrical installation qualifications with a college or training provider. Once completed you could take a specialist course in solar installation.

You could also complete an apprenticeship in electrical installation followed by a specialist course in solar installation. Alternatively, you could find a job as a trainee electrician and then complete your electrical qualifications and solar installation course whilst working.

If you are already an electrician or domestic installer you could complete a Solar PV installation course to expand your knowledge.

To research local education and training opportunities that could lead to a career as a solar panel installer, visit our partner website www.logonmoveon.co.uk

Useful websites to find out more about a career as a solar panel installer:

Go Construct <https://www.goconstruct.org/construction-careers/what-jobs-are-right-for-me/solar-panel-installer/>

