

Solar PV Maintenance Technician

Role Specific Education Training Needs

Solar PV Maintenance Technicians may enter the industry from other construction occupations, engineering and technical occupations, or directly into the industry through an apprenticeship or employment with training.

Some Solar PV Maintenance Technicians join a training path to become a fully qualified Maintenance Electrician. There are no mandatory qualification requirements to become Solar PV Maintenance Technician, but many customers prefer to employ companies registered with the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS). MCS certifies low-carbon products and installations used to produce electricity and heat from renewable sources. The Solar PV standard for certification is available at: https://mcscertified.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/MIS-3002_Solar-PV-Systems-V4.0.pdf.

Alternative entry routes

T Levels

If you're 16 and deciding what route to take, and you want a blend of academic and practical learning, you might be interested in the new Technical Qualifications (T Level) choices. T levels are a new 2-year long qualification. They bring classroom learning and an extended industry placement together. You'll spend 80% of your time in the classroom and 20% on a 45-day placement with an employer which will give you experience of the world of work in your chosen field

One T level takes 2 years of full-time study and is equivalent to 3 A levels. T Levels are rolling out across the country with many more coming online by September 2024.

The Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction T – Level is currently offered in London by Newham College <https://www.newvic.ac.uk/>.

The Building Services Engineering for Construction is offered in London by Barking and Dagenham College

<https://www.barkingdagenhamcollege.ac.uk/>.

Other colleges across London will begin to offer these courses from September 2022.

You can search for a relevant T Level delivered in your location here:

<https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/students/find?Postcode=&ShouldSearch=True&SearchedQualificationId=48&TotalRecordCount=22&SelectedQualificationId=0>.

Vocational Qualifications

There are various vocational qualifications that you can take at school or college to help you gain entry into this occupation. Make sure you choose a qualification that will give you good options in the future. You will need to check what the qualification actually qualifies you to do.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are a common and popular route to take at age 16, 18 or older. This is because during your apprenticeship you are employed and earn a wage while you study to learn your profession. There are many apprenticeships relevant to this occupation at Level 2 or 3. Your employer will help you decide which one is right for you depending on your career aspirations, or you could look for an employer who offers the apprenticeship you wish to take

A list of suggested apprenticeship is included under the 'Training' section of the Solar Skills: London resource portal.

Career Prospects and Progression

After gaining experience in solar PV maintenance, you may wish to progress your career by becoming a fully qualified Maintenance Electrician as detailed in the career progression route for Solar PV Panel Installer.

Skills Needed

- Knowledge of building and construction.
- Good product knowledge of solar systems.
- Basic electrical / technical knowledge.
- The ability to work at height.
- Good attention to detail.
- Patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations.
- Ability to work well with others.
- Excellent customer service skills.

Number employed (UK)

There are around 214,000 maintenance fitters (SOC 5223) working in different industries around the UK.

Typical Salary Range

The UK careers service estimates a qualified Maintenance Fitter or Technician will earn between £18,000 and £35,000.

ENDS

Please note that the information contained on this page is accurate to the best of Solar Energy UK's knowledge. Solar Energy UK welcomes additional information and will aim to update any errors or omissions.