



# BE PART OF A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Interested in the solar energy industry?  
Turn your curiosity into a bright career!

SUPPORTED BY  
**MAYOR OF LONDON**



# SOLAR SKILLS LONDON

A Mayor of London funded program to support residents into good work and rewarding careers



Now is the time to join the clean energy revolution in one of the fastest growing areas of the renewable energy industry!

The thriving solar energy sector is made up of companies ranging from small enterprises to large corporates designing, installing, operating, and maintaining solar systems.

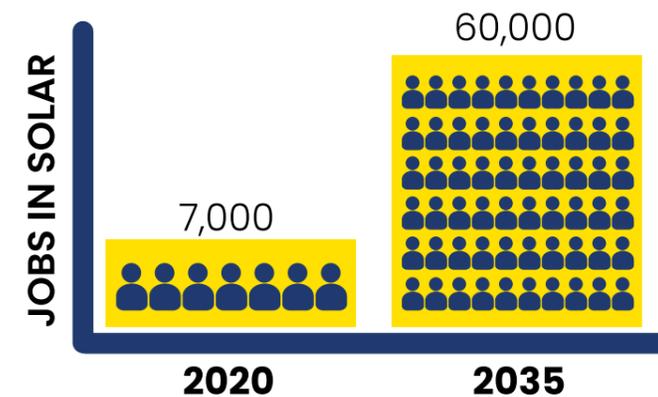
We know solar energy is and will continue to be a big part of the world's low-carbon future, which is why the industry has witnessed rapid growth and that's where you can play a role - by meeting that demand.

Join London's solar sector and help meet the UK's demand for people looking for an exciting way to make a difference!

## What's in it for you?

People working in the solar sector at all levels have the potential to earn a healthy wage and build a long-lasting career.

| Job Position                 | Salary Range                                   |
|------------------------------|--|
| Solar Photovoltaic Installer | £25,000 to £49,000<br>£35,222 (average salary) |
| Technical Architect          | £65,000 - £78,000                              |
| Business Development Manager | £45,000 annually                               |
| Apprentice Electrician       | £6.62 /hr (starting salary)                    |



Solar Energy UK analysis shows that solar is expected to support around 60,000 jobs in the UK by 2035, up from around 7,000 in 2020

## How to get started!

To help you get started, the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, is funding a series of boot camps to give you a taste of working in solar power. The Mayor of London is funding boot camps to provide a route into solar careers.

To sign up for these, please visit:

[solarenergyuk.org/solar-skills-london-resource-portal](https://solarenergyuk.org/solar-skills-london-resource-portal)

## Solar Systems Here to stay

- Solar systems are affordable and most of the systems you see on houses are fitted in a day or two. They then convert the sun's energy into clean electricity.
- This electricity can be used as free energy, stored in batteries for when it's needed or sold (exported) for other households to use, for which the owner of the solar system gets paid.
- Solar systems are simple to install; unlike big power stations, which can take years to design and build, solar panels have no moving parts and should last 35 years or longer.
- Solar thermal systems harvest the sun's energy as heat for hot water for showers and baths, without the energy bill!

## Solar Energy On the rise!

- The solar energy industry is growing incredibly rapidly, both in the UK and around the world. For example, there has been huge growth in the rooftop solar industry in the last few years in the UK, with nearly a million homes now employing solar.
- The UK government has set a target of 70GW of solar energy in the UK by 2035. This is five times as much solar energy capacity as already exists and more growth is expected until at least 2050. A career in solar can be a career for life!
- Hundreds of solar companies across the UK are hiring and some of these also operate abroad, working in the industry can provide opportunities to travel and experience more of the world.



## Discover solar technologies!



**Residential rooftop** systems are installed on homes and provide heat or electricity directly to the building. Any excess can be sold to the national grid. Residential solar systems help homeowners and occupiers reduce their bills and can increase the value of a home, making them a popular home improvement.

The standard roof top solar system is incredibly simple by design, the main parts of a solar system include:

- **Solar panels:** These convert sunlight into heat or electricity.
- **Inverter:** This ensures that the electricity which solar panels produce can be used in buildings and appliances, by converting direct current to alternating current.
- **Meter:** (with smart technology): Measures how much electricity is generated by a solar system. Monitoring software can help users detect any problems, optimise the system use and when to use appliances to avoid paying for electricity.
- **Batteries:** Store surplus electricity produced in the daytime for when it is needed in the evening or at night. There are now thermal batteries which can store energy as heat.
- **Mounting system:** Used to fix solar panels to a roof or a frame on the ground.



**Commercial scale** solar systems are installed on large roof spaces, such as warehouse, schools, car parks and hospitals. They can include thousands of panels and make a major contribution to the energy needs of the site. Together, they provide a significant amount of power to the UK. Some commercial scale systems are installed on the land next to the building that they power.



**Utility scale** solar systems are installed on land, typically in the countryside, which is why they are also known as ground-mounted systems or solar farms. Utility scale systems can be very large

with many thousands of panels, although there are also smaller ground-mounted sites. Utility scale systems connect directly to the national electricity network. As with rooftop solar systems, because

the energy they generate is low cost, they help to reduce energy bills and fight climate change.

## Find your fit

There are many career paths to explore depending on your strengths and interests. As the solar industry rapidly expands, so too will your options!



**Physics and engineering** careers in solar can offer exciting new challenges focused on improving how solar systems are designed and built.



**Software /IT/coding/app designers** develop user interfaces like those linking solar systems with smart home controls to optimize efficiency.



**Installer teams** offer a hands on career with a bird's eye view each day.



**Technicians** ensure the large-scale solar farms are kept at peak efficiency, using data from a drone to keep things running smoothly.



**Policy** in government bodies and regulatory organisations helps develop essential public policy and rules which affect the entire solar energy industry.



**Business and marketing** opportunities in solar business management, legal, accounts, HR or sales teams are growing.

Visit our web page for more details of the roles available in the solar energy industry:

[solarenergyuk.org/solar-skills-london-resource-portal](https://solarenergyuk.org/solar-skills-london-resource-portal)

## What skills or qualifications do I need?

You can enter the solar sector straight from school, study to become an electrician or specialise in solar by joining a solar company as an apprentice where you will get paid to learn and work.

You could also study for a degree in a relevant subject, such as BEng (Hons) Electrical and Electronic Engineering or an architect degree apprenticeship.

Or, follow the legal, human resources and computer science routes and direct your newly acquired skills to the solar industry.

Some solar workers have moved across with relevant skills from other sectors, such as solar installers from the roofing industry.

There are also opportunities in solar to get involved with other innovative technologies, such as electric vehicles, heat pumps, and building design and construction.

There are a whole host of opportunities to be explored come find out more at Solar Skills London!

## More questions on how to start your journey?

Visit the Solar Energy UK site, at [www.solarenergyuk.org](http://www.solarenergyuk.org). In particular, explore our Solar Energy UK careers hub, which includes more detailed information on how to kick start your career in solar.

This is available at [solarenergyuk.org/solar-skills-london-resource-portal](https://solarenergyuk.org/solar-skills-london-resource-portal)





## **Solar Energy UK**

Solar Energy UK is an industry membership body. This means that other solar companies become a member of Solar Energy UK, which engages with the government on their behalf, providing input on government policy and rules on the solar industry. Solar Energy UK has 300 full members and 1,200 affiliate members.

# **MAYOR OF LONDON**

The Mayor of London is committed to an ambitious target of net zero for London by 2030, supporting the growing decarbonisation supply chain is critical to this work. To find out more about what is being done please visit : <https://www.london.gov.uk/>