

## Project Summary

**Applicant:** Kennebec Valley Community College (KVCC)

**Principal Investigator:** Dana Doran, Director of Development, KVCC

**Project Title:** Solar Installer Instructor Training Project

**Project Objectives:**

- Participate in the National Consortium to share, develop, and disseminate model curricula, lessons learned, and best practices.
- Increase the capacity of educational providers throughout New England and New York (Northeast Region) to train workers in careers dealing with the Solar Heating and Cooling (SHC) installation process.
- In partnership with the National Consortium, facilitate and support the inclusion of SHC theory and application into the national educational and training infrastructure.
- Host regional forums throughout the Northeast Region to share, develop, and disseminate curricula and best practices regarding solar installer instructor training.

**Project Description:** In collaboration with the National Consortium, Kennebec Valley Community College (KVCC) will modify their existing high-quality Solar Heating & Cooling (SHC) technician training programs and integrate best practices from around the country to develop and deliver a nationally accepted train-the-trainer program designed around industry standards. Professional development activities will target instructors from community colleges, career & technical education centers and private industry training incubators in the Northeast Region who are looking to enhance their existing plumbing, heating, electrical and other building-related programs through the inclusion of (SHC) installation training courses. Training will be delivered through a variety of methods including classroom, laboratory, ITV, ATM and “on the road” via KVCC’s mobile solar energy systems training unit.

To accomplish this, KVCC will partner with the Career & Technical Education Centers and Community College Systems in the Northeast Region, as well as Efficiency Maine, the Office of Governor John Baldacci, Associated Builders and Contractors of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, and Limited Electrical Contractors of Vermont to deliver the following proposed professional development opportunities:

- ***Qualified Solar Heating & Cooling Instructor Certificate:*** a modularized 40-hour SHC instructor course based on the College’s current non-credit *Solar Thermal Installation* course and proposed *Solar Thermal/Geo-Thermal* advanced certificate.
- ***What’s New in Solar Energy Systems:*** short-term, continuing education opportunities which train instructors on the very latest in solar technology.
- ***Regional Solar Technology Forums:*** provide networking opportunities for instructors, employers, economic and workforce development professionals and other stakeholders in the field of solar installation workforce development.

Increasing access to instructor training will support community colleges, career & technical education centers, and private industry in training and creating pathways for the highly-skilled, technical workforce demanded by the Northeast Region’s growing solar energy system industry. Instructors who participate in this project will create a pipeline of skilled and qualified workers ready to meet the projected need for technicians in the rapidly expanding field of solar energy system installation, maintenance and repair.