

Licensing

Solar Policy Survey

October 2016



The NESEMC Solar Policy Survey compiles information on state-level policies that significantly influence the solar energy market. The survey was produced with the help of the Pace Energy and Climate Center’s team of student researchers. The vast majority of the information contained within this document has been obtained from [the Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency](#) (DSIRE) with additional information and research obtained from various sources.

Note: These factsheets are updated periodically to reflect policy changes within each state. If you notice a mistake or out of date information, please contact Nick Martin at nmartin@nesemc.com.

POLICY BACKGROUND

Typically, state regulation requires solar PV installers to hold an electrical license. States may adopt solar specific licensing requirements for solar installers that may allow these contractors to avoid obtaining a full electrical license to work on solar installations. Some states may offer reciprocity with other states and allow licensed contractors to operate without obtaining an additional state-specific license. Finally, some states may tie solar incentives to work completed by licensed solar installers.

SUMMARY

	LICENSING	RECIPROCITY
CT	Solar PV specific licenses are available, but ultimately a licensed electrician is required for each installation.	None.
ME	Does not offer specific solar PV licenses, but installation must be done by state licensed electrician.	MA, NH, OR, VT for journeyman and master electrician licenses.
MA	All or most of the work must be done by state licensed electrician.	ME, NH, OR, VT and WA for journeyman and master electrician licenses.
NH	Does not offer solar PV specific licenses for installers. Solar PV installations must be done by a licensed master electrician or a journeyman in the employment of a master electrician.	MA, ME, and VT for journeyman and master electrician licenses.
NJ	Does not offer solar PV specific licenses for installers. Any individual installing PV systems must be a licensed electrician and must be a licensed Home Improvement Contractor.	DE for master electrician licenses.
NY	Licensure is regulated at the county level.	None.
PA	Licensure is regulated at the county level.	None.
RI	Solar PV installers must be registered contractors, qualified to conduct business in the state, and all electrical work aspects of a PV installation must be done by a state licensed electrician.	None
VT	Does not require or offer solar PV specific licenses for installers.	ME and NH for journeyman and master electrician licenses.

CONNECTICUT

In Connecticut, solar installers must be a licensed electrician in order to connect a solar installation to any existing panel, junction box, wiring or circuit(s).

The state does offer two different types of [special solar PV licenses](#), but ultimately a licensed electrician is required for each installation. The two licenses—PV-1 Limited Solar Electric Contractor and PV-2 Limited Solar Electric Journeyman—allow holders to perform work limited to solar electric systems except for connecting to any existing panel, junction box, wiring, or circuit(s).

Tied to Incentives:

In order to participate in incentive programs such as the [CT Solar Lease Program](#), the Connecticut Green Bank requires [approved eligible PV contractors](#) to have at least one employee hold [NABCEP](#) certification.

Reciprocity:

Connecticut does not offer reciprocity with other states for electrician or solar licensing.

MAINE

Maine does not offer solar PV specific licenses for installers. All or most aspects of a PV installation must be done by a state licensed electrician.

Tied to Incentives:

Rebate incentives are only available for projects installed by a Master Electrician who is certified by NABCEP or is working in conjunction with someone certified by NABCEP.

Reciprocity:

Maine reciprocates with MA, NH, OR, and VT for journeyman and master electrician licenses. ¹

MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts does not offer solar PV specific licenses for installers. All or most aspects of a PV installation must be done by a state licensed electrician.

A building permit may be required to install solar PV. An individual must hold a Construction Supervisors License or a Home Improvement License to obtain a building permit.

Tied to Incentives:

Incentives are not tied to licensure or certification.

Reciprocity:

Massachusetts reciprocates with ME, NH, OR, VT and WA for journeyman and master electrician licenses. ²

NEW HAMPSHIRE

¹ [National Electrical Contractors Association](#)

² [National Electrical Contractors Association](#)

New Hampshire does not offer solar PV specific licenses for installers. Solar PV installations must be done by a licensed master electrician or a journeyman in the employment of a master electrician.

Tied to Incentives:

Incentives are not tied to licensure or certification.

Reciprocity:

New Hampshire reciprocates with MA, ME, and VT for journeyman and master electrician licenses.³

NEW JERSEY

New Jersey does not offer solar PV specific licenses for installers. Any individual installing PV systems must be a licensed electrician.

Additionally, any person engaged in the business of selling goods or making home improvements in New Jersey must be a licensed Home Improvement Contractor.

Tied to Incentives:

The New Jersey Clean Energy Program's Renewable Energy Incentive Program (REIP) requires participating installers to be licensed Home Improvement Contractors.

Reciprocity:

New Jersey reciprocates with DE for master electrician licenses.⁴

NEW YORK

New York does not offer solar PV specific licenses for installers. New York also does not have state wide licensure requirements for the installation of solar PV. Licensure is regulated at the county level.

Tied to Incentives:

To receive state incentives, NYSERDA [requires](#) the solar PV project to be completed by a "Participating Installer".

For systems under 200kW, installers must have either: (1) NABCEP Certification; (2) IBEW-NECA Electrical Journeyman & Apprentice Training; or (3) UL PV System Installation Certification.

For systems over 200kW, installers must provide information to NYSERDA showing their organization's experience in solar installations.

Reciprocity:

New York does not offer reciprocity with other states for electrician or solar licensing.⁵

PENNSYLVANIA

³ [National Electrical Contractors Association](#)

⁴ [National Electrical Contractors Association](#)

⁵ [National Electrical Contractors Association](#)

Pennsylvania does not offer or require solar PV specific licenses for installers. Pennsylvania also does not have state wide licensure requirements for the installation of solar PV. Licensure is regulated at the county level.

Tied to Incentives:

In order to participate in the Pennsylvania Sunshine Rebate Program, installers must be Pennsylvania Sunshine Program Approved Solar Electric Installers. To be approved, installers must have either NABCEP certification, installed at least three PV systems and completed an IREC ISPQ accredited training program, completed a PV manufacturing training program or an IBEW/NECA apprenticeship training program that included a PV installation course.

Reciprocity:

Pennsylvania does not offer reciprocity with other states for electrician or solar licensing.⁶

RHODE ISLAND

In Rhode Island, solar PV installers must be [registered contractors](#), [qualified](#) to conduct business in the state, and all electrical work aspects of a PV installation must be done by a state licensed electrician.

Rhode Island offers a [Renewable Energy Professional](#) limited license. Holders of this license may perform ancillary non-electrical renewable energy work.

Tied to Incentives:

Incentives are not specifically tied to licensure or certification, but they are implied, as required by regulations.

Reciprocity:

Rhode Island does not offer reciprocity with other states for electrician or solar licensing.⁷

VERMONT

Vermont does not require or offer solar PV specific licenses for installers. The installation of solar PV modules and racking up to the point of connection to field-fabricated wiring does not require a license.⁸

Tied to Incentives:

Incentives are not tied to licensure or certification.

Reciprocity:

Vermont reciprocates with Maine and New Hampshire for journeyman and master electrician licenses.⁹

⁶ [National Electrical Contractors Association](#)

⁷ [National Electrical Contractors Association](#)

⁸ [26 V.S.A. § 910\(7\)](#)

⁹ [National Electrical Contractors Association](#)

About NESEMC



The **Northeast Solar Energy Market Coalition** brings together solar energy business associations and other stakeholders in the Northeast United States to harmonize regional solar energy policy and advance the solar energy market. We are funded by the U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative as a cooperative agreement through 2017.

Our vision is a thriving, efficient regional market for solar photovoltaic energy generation in the Northeast.

We will realize our vision by encouraging and engaging regional solar businesses in advancing market policy to lower costs and increase solar market opportunity. We will educate stakeholders and policy makers throughout the region directly, and by empowering our member organizations with robust analysis and timely information.

Visit us at NESEMC.com

Powered by
SunShot
U.S. Department of Energy