



## HELPING STUDENTS ENTER THE SOLAR WORKFORCE

Robotics and artificial intelligence are just two of the growing technologies that have made many traditional manufacturing positions and other skilled technical jobs obsolete. By 2025, the World Economic Forum predicts that humans and machines will spend the same amount of time on tasks at work. As the job market changes rapidly, high schools need to adapt their workforce development from the jobs of yesterday to the careers of tomorrow.

**By installing solar and combining it with a workforce development program, schools support local employment and create vocational training opportunities.**

Solar installers and technicians are among the country's fastest growing job titles. Over the last five years, solar employment increased 44%, five times faster than job growth in the overall U.S. economy, according to Generation 180.



*Mason Taylor, Lee County, Virginia high school graduate and former solar technician trainee*

### HOW WE ARE DIFFERENT

While many solar companies are newcomers to serving schools, **Secure Solar Futures** has provided energy solutions to education customers since 2010. And while other companies offer job training, our company employs a "demand-pull" model of workforce development that can, in some cases, offer both training and immediate employment.

### OUR SOLUTIONS

#### ELECTRIFYING CAREERS

"Renewable Energy Boom Unleashes a War Over Talent for Green Jobs," reported Bloomberg News in 2022. This trend has opened new opportunities for workers trained for renewable energy. In electricity generation, solar was the fastest growing technology, adding 17,212 jobs and growing 5.4% in 2021, according to the World Economic Forum. Our solar workforce development program gives students a head start in one of the fastest growing careers in the economy today. This experience can qualify students to seek immediate employment as solar technicians or, with additional training, as electricians.

#### CLASSROOM WORK + PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

Programs are available to high school students at K-12 schools that are customers of Secure Solar Futures at no additional cost for up to three years. In partnership with a local community college, trainees will complete 5-10 days of classroom work, typically covering subjects including electrical code I, introduction to solar technology, and OSHA 10.

Trainees will go on to about eight weeks of supervised work installing solar energy systems. We provide tools, boots, and safety equipment free of charge along with the possibility of a stipend. In some cases, our program fulfills CTE internship requirements and may offer qualified graduates employment opportunities installing solar panels on their own schools or on other solar projects.

### CUSTOMER PRAISE

"Mountain Empire Community College is excited about the partnership and opportunity to bring more solar installation projects to our service region. The partnership will provide MECC's Energy Technology program students and graduates with incredible new hands-on opportunities in solar installation."

**—DR. KRISTEN WESTOVER, PRESIDENT, MOUNTAIN EMPIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**