



# Residential PV Manager

## Job Description

A Residential PV Manager is like the team captain of a solar project. They plan, design, and oversee the installation of solar panels on houses, making sure everything is safe, efficient, and built to last. They guide their crew, solve challenges, and work with families who are excited to power their homes with sunshine. They bring clean energy to more people and inspire communities to imagine a brighter, greener future.

## Salary

Entry — \$80,000

Middle — \$108,000

Top — \$135,000

## Core Tasks

- Oversees **design**, **permitting**, and **installation** of residential solar PV systems to ensure quality and safety.
- Leads** and **mentor's installation crews**, providing technical guidance and performance oversight.
- Coordinates** with homeowners, contractors, and utility providers to ensure smooth **project execution** and **compliance**.

## Workplace / Environment

- Work hours**  
**Approx. 40+ hours/week**  
(At key milestones overtime work may be required to meet deadlines)
- Environment**  
Mix of office work and on-site fieldwork, **coordinating teams** and **ensuring compliance**.
- Travel**  
**Visits** residential job sites and **meets** with contractors/utilities to **monitor progress**.

## Education / Prerequisites

### Education Level

Bachelor's degree in engineering or business preferred. Project management cert a plus.

### Licensing

Typically no license required but they or an electrician or general contractor they work with does

### Pre-Job Preparation

Usually 3–5 years of hands-on solar experience, including installing panels, reading electrical plans, and some leadership or project coordination experience.

## Experience

### Soft Skills

- Leadership
- Team coordination
- Communication
- Problem-solving

### Technical Skills

- Residential solar PV design & installation
- Electrical systems & safety standards
- Project management
- Contractor & utility coordination



## Career Path: Ryan Garrison

### About Me

**Residential PV Manager at Puget Sound Solar**

High School Diploma from Aviation High School and Got Green Training

### High School Life

"I went to Aviation High School. I originally **wanted to be an aeronautical engineer**, working on planes and designing planes. They had a lot of **hands-on training**. I took **grounding school** what pilots have to take where you learn Morse code. I helped build a small plane as a school project and worked on robotics, **learning how to build and command robots**. It was pretty fun. In 9<sup>th</sup> grade, I got to fly in a little two single engine plane with a three seater from Boeing Field. We each took turns. I was able to **take control over the of the plane**, go left, right, up and down, things like that. I still do have an interest to get a private pilot's license, once I can afford it.



### Technical Training

"Around the age of 21 I was in the **second class** from Got Green. Got Green is an organization that takes **people of color** and **trains you** how to do different trades that you normally wouldn't get the chance to do because a lot of companies hire people from out of state. They had to be in the neighborhood, and you had to get paid a certain amount. They would train you to do all of that work, so you can get your **certificate**. They had a couple **people from the field** come out that were teachers, and we were behind a church that had an old building that was gutted. Our whole experience was inside this gutted house, and they were able to teach us all about the **different framing techniques**, all about the **building envelope** and how to **insulate the walls**. It was a lot of **hands-on experience** every single day."

### Into the Real World

"I was originally a **weatherizer**. I was insulating houses, and I saw **Puget Sound Solar** at the warehouse where they were also doing **insulating**. I gave them a call because I was tired of insulating. Then the owner of the company, just over the phone, asked me if I wanted to do solar. I said, yeah, that would be great. I started out as a **crew lead**, then have been working my way up ever since. I've done **residential** and **commercial installation**, been a crew lead, a site super for bigger jobs, done **commercial designing** and **permitting**, and tested out to be an **electrician**. Now I work as a **residential project manager**, taking all of that experience and **combining it into day-to-day operations** with three different crews."

# About My Job

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"Helping people save energy and protect the environment is the best part of my job"

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## Pros

- "I've been here for 13 years now, and it's **super family oriented**. I used to jump from job to job before, ever since I landed here, I don't want to leave."
- "Getting out of the field, **not really using my body anymore**."
- "I like what I do, because I'm in the office in the morning, then **I can go out in the field**."
- "We're all happy with each other, like **friends outside of work**."

## Cons

- "There is a trade off, now it's **more mental** when you're on the admin side. You get a lot more **tired** that way but it's not physical."
- "Things are kind of up in the air lately with that big, beautiful bill that passed, and it's **hurting residential solar** a lot."
- "The **tax credits are going away**, which is going to end up being a smaller amount of people that we can sell to, and have to be relying on the super rich people to buy panels."

## Fieldwork

- "I take all of that experience, and combine it into one where I'm **day to day operations with three different crews**, about 12 guys that I manage. I still do a little bit of everything that was involved there."
- "**Deal** with all the **subcontractors** and things like that."
- "I **schedule pre construction meetings for new sales**. I go out and handle a couple of those. I come back."
- "Its about **half field work and half office work**, which I really like"

## Office Work

- "I come in, **get the guys lined out** for the new jobs that they have, **answer any questions** that they have."
- "**Answering emails, scheduling inspections, answering phone calls** from the guys throughout the day, putting up fires if they come along, and closing the job out."
- "Now with the residential project manager, I kind of **take all of that experience, and combine it into one**."

## Skills

- "To be **moldable**, willing to **change** and **learn** to adapt right away."
- "**Comfortable with heights**, working on ladders, pitched roofs, and live wires."
- "Just to be **willing to learn, it's okay to make mistakes**; if you keep going, things start clicking."
- "**Managing** day-to-day operations with the three different crews."
- "Having a **good work ethic** is really important in any field, and that you you **show up on time**."

## Education/Experience

- "Went to Aviation High School; wanted to be an **aeronautical engineer**."
- "Got into Got Green program in my early 20s to **learn weatherization**."
- "Started as **crew lead**, then installer, site supervisor, commercial designing, **residential project manager**."
- "Tested out to be an electrician."
- "Been with Puget Sound Solar for 13 years; super **family-oriented** environment."

## The Future of the **Solar Industry**

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"Expanding into new energy solutions  
is the path forward."

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"The **future is up in the air** lately with that big, beautiful bill that passed, and it's **hurting residential solar** a lot. The tax credits are going away, which is going to end up only being a smaller amount of people that we can sell to. It's still pretty early to tell the impact. **The solar industry has had hiccups in the past**. A long time ago, Washington made incentives where everyone can get up to 54 cents a kilowatt that they produce, and they got paid back in like seven, eight years. Then had free solar for the next 25 years or so. Then that went away, and the solar tax credit came out which picked us back up. We're a little **optimistic knowing that there have been fluctuations in the past**, even with this tax credit going away. We're hopeful that things will solve themselves in the future and will do a couple more electrical things in the field.

"As of right now, we're thinking of being more of a **specialty electrical company** and that we might branch out to generator backups, heat pumps, different things like that, to **help shape our future** a little bit better, and not just relying on the super rich people to buy panels all the time. I think my job will still be a project manager, but just will slow down a bit."

# About Sustainability Ambassadors

We are here to **RAPIDLY ADVANCE A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**. Empowering **YOUTH** to catalyze community sustainability, **TEACHERS** to integrate rigor with relevance for real-world impact, **COMMUNITY** to drive collective impact.

We support a year-round training program for over 60 highly motivated middle and high school youth, a Teacher Fellows Program, City-County CAP internships, and college-level interns, and work with hundreds of educators to design new models of problem-based, place-based learning around **a shared vision of educating for sustainability**.

## Your Green Jobs Future

**Ready** to explore your future in green jobs? Use [Map your Career](#) to map your trajectory!

**Find** career opportunities near you now! Use [Career Connect - Washington's](#) tool to find programs to build your career skills.

**Interested** in a future in solar? Take a look at the [Solar Jobs Census](#) to track solar job growth nationwide.

**Explore** [RVC's opportunities](#) to work with organizations led by communities of color.

**Dive** into the [Center of Excellence for Clean Energy's](#) robust career tools in the sustainable energy sector.

**Grow** your professional sustainability skillset with the [Seattle Youth Good Program](#).

**See** Seattle's [Clean Energy Resources Map](#) to examine what the city is planning for a greener energy future.

**Check out** the [U.S. Green Building Council](#) to explore the sector's current opportunities. :

## Funder Acknowledgement



**King County**

Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
**Wastewater Treatment Division**

