Energy Project Manager

Job Description

Think of an Energy Project Manager as the person who makes clean energy projects actually happen. From solar panels on rooftops, to electric vehicle charging stations, to smarter buildings that use less power, you guide projects from start to finish. That means making sure all the right permits and approvals are in place, planning when and how everything gets built, and keeping customers in the loop. You work with a team of schedulers, installers, and technicians to keep things running smoothly.

Salary

Entry — $72,600
Middle — $114,600
Top — $134,500

Core Tasks

- **Plan**, **coordinate**, and **manage** solar, ev and energy efficiency projects from start to finish, including installation layouts, collaboration with the team, and communication to homeowners"
- **Oversee permitting, inspection**s, and utility **coordination**, **ensuring** compliance with Washington state regulations.
- **Collaborate** with schedulers, **install** managers, and permit technicians to keep projects on schedule and meet quality standards.

Workplace / Environment

- Work hours
  Approx. 40+ hours/week
  (At key milestones overtime work may be required to meet deadlines)
- Environment
  Primarily **office-based**, working with **schedulers**, install managers, project managers, and **permit** technicians to plan projects, coordinate permitting, and **resolve** issues as a team.
- Travel
  This role is **primarily office-based** with no regular fieldwork responsibilities.

Education / Prerequisites

Education Level

Bachelors in Sustainability, Engineering or business preffered. SEI (Solar Energy International) courses a plus

Licensing

Success in the role is built on industry knowledge and hands-on experience rather than formal licensing.

Pre-Job Preparation

Usually 3-6 years of experience in the energy industry, gaining a full perspective across marketing, sales, installation, and electrical systems.

Experience

Soft Skills

- Team collaboration
- Problem-solving
- Adaptability and learning
- Communication
- Detail orientated
- Resourceful

Technical Skills

- Project planning and review
- Utility and city coordination
- Installation layouts and graphics
- Marketing, sales, installation, and electrical
- Electrical systems training (SEI courses)

Career Path: Cory Bowman

About Me

Project Manager at Northwest Electric and Solar

BA in Sustainability and Environmental Justice – San Francisco State University; Solar Energy International Courses in electrical systems

High School Life

"Up until my senior year, I was music all the way, but then I went on a **camping trip** with a few friends at **Joshua Tree National Park.** There is actually one of the largest commercial solar arrays near Joshua Tree. I didn't know this at the time, but I remember it was four or five in the morning, we were climbing some rocks, trying to get a good shot of the sunrise. We get to the top, I look over the mountainside, and what I see is not desert, but 1000s of solar panels. It looked like an ocean, and it just shimmered In such a mesmerizing way. This array in the middle desert, bothering no one and is potentially powering hundreds if not 1000s of homes, providing a renewable source of energy for society. I fell in love with solar at that point, so I decided to go to SF State to pursue a degree in Environmental Science."

College Choices

"For the **first year**, I didn't take any music classes. I just took my prerequisites for the first two years, got all my **GE classes** done. Then I was like, cool, **I'm switching majors**. Ended up getting a degree in **sustainability and environmental justice**. I didn't really know that I would stay in the solar energy field. I thought I would just be in the green tech field, but I had a **internships after college that connected me back to solar**. In college, all the papers I wrote were about solar. I used a lot of my time **researching the solar industry** and what was going on within the industry. Internships are really good to help get your foot in the door of your designated industry. If you can do an internship while you're in college, or even just a short internship, it will be extremely beneficial. Taking **extra courses as well is a majorly helpful**. If your interested in solar **certifications**, I would suggest **Solar Energy International courses**, they are really helpful and give you a lot of solar experience."

Into the Real World

"I did **internships** after college, I was a **Climate Corps Fellow**, where I did a 10 month fellowship, I also had another internship at the **Environmental Action Committee** helping with **Coastal Cleanup**. After I finished my 10 month fellowship, I got hired on at **SolarEdge** as their marketing coordinator. I did marketing for a couple years, until **COVID** happened. I lost my job because there's no events during COVID. So I stopped working there, started working at **Sun Power as a permit tech**, did some solar sales, did some solar campaign work for some legislation that was happening with **Title 24 in California**, and then I moved up to Washington, and I found Northwest and I have been here ever since."

About My Job

"Each project is like a puzzle; you need all the pieces to make it complete."

Pros

- "Work directly within the **solar industry**, touches on **marketing**, **sales**, **installation**, and **electrical**."
- "It's kind of like you have a **whole bunch** of different pieces that you have to **put together** and **create** a full installation."
- "I'm a **project manager** here, and one of the things that I truly love about my job as a project manager is I feel like I get to **build puzzles every day**."
- "Love the amount of **learning**, every day is a little different, always something going on to **plan** or **take care of**."

Cons

- "It's sometimes **hard to juggle**, **and you stress on making sure** that you don't forget a part of an installation."
- "If you don't have all your ducks in a row, it presents a lot of **difficulties** and **potentially moves projects back**."
- "I don't love **getting yelled** at, sometimes you have to deal with some **spicy customers**."
- "Just making sure that you **keep everything going** and **afloat**, that's difficult."

Day to Day

- "When I get to work, I have a couple hours to **handle emails, correspondence**, things like that."
- "We do **planning review for projects.** We look 2 to 4 weeks out, just to make sure that we're making sure all our ducks in a row for those installations."
- "If someone sells a project, I'll have to **make an entire installation plan** with them within a week or so."
- "Then just making sure that whatever fires are the brightest are extinguished. That is a lot of it. Just **putting out this biggest fires first**, and then we get smaller ones."

Office Work

- "I personally work in our **Energy Office**, a lot of it is actually like individual work. I'm working with whatever project comes across our pipeline or that **I need to handle**."
- "There's a bunch of us in here on any day give. We have our **scheduler** in our office, we have our **install manager**, and we have our **project managers** and our **permit tech**."
- "We do a lot of planning reviews making sure we got that **utility** and **city coordination** going.
- "I am mostly in the office as the project manager, so **no field work for me**."

Skills

- “This role touches on **marketing, sales, installation, electrical**, it touches on kind of everything”
- “Its a lot of **planning. I design the plans and create graphics** to showcase homeowners so that they can see how it all works.”
- “Taking extra courses and certifications is really helpful. Specifically with solar, we have the **Solar Energy International (SEI) courses**. Those courses are really helpful and give you a lot of solar experience.”

Education/Experience

- "I ended up getting a **degree in sustainability and environmental justice.**"
- "I did **internships** after college, I was **Cimate Corps Fellow** and I had another internship at the **Environmental Action Committee**."
- "After I finished my **10 month fellowship**, I got hired on at **SolarEdge** as their marketing coordinator... then I moved up to **Washington**, and I found **Northwest**."

The Future of **Solar Industry**

"Knowledge, skills, and adaptability drive success in this field."

"I see the **industry growing**. In the last 10 years, we have had a **existential growth** within the solar industry. I think that we are going to see a little **dip over the next two years**, and that's to be anticipated because we losing a 30% tax credit. Anyone that wants that tax credit, if money is the main motivating factor, they're going to take advantage of it, or they already have. So I think that we're are going to notice a dip in the solar industry for about a year or two as the industry evolves without this credit. **It's played a huge role in how the technology has developed and how price points have been set.**”

“I think without this credit being there, the industry is going to have a little bit of struggle, but then it's going to **solidify** and it's not going to disappear. It is more of a way for us to figure out different ways to express the **value proposition** of solar and green technology. Solar, if we allow it, has potential to power a lot of our issues. As **AI technology increases,** Solar is going to be really **impactful** for helping curb a lot of the emissions and energy use that these businesses have. I'm hopeful. We've been around for a long time. The **green tech, or solar industry, is one of the largest growing job industries over the last 10 years within the energy sector.** I think solar is still in a good spot."

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

BOEING

CASCADE WATER ALLIANCE

King County
Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division