

ClientCurrents

News & Views for Building Professionals

United for Quality.

THE ELECTRICAL ALLIANCE
National Electrical Contractors Association and Local 26 IBEW



Solar Panels Save Resources and Provide New Training Equipment



Recently installed solar panels at the Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee's (JATC) facility in Lanham, MD are pulling double duty, serving as a power source for the building and a training device for electricians.

The JATC oversees training for all of the electricians of the Electrical Alliance, a cooperative effort between the electrical contractors of National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) and the skilled electricians of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 26 (IBEW).

"Each year, about 100 apprentices graduate from our program with the latest knowledge in electrical construction," says JATC director, David McCord. "The solar panels are another way we are providing the most current information."

The JATC's alternative energy class is offered to 4th and 5th year apprentices as well as experienced electricians who haven't had training in this technology and covers wind generation, hydrogen generation and bio fuels in addition to solar photovoltaics.

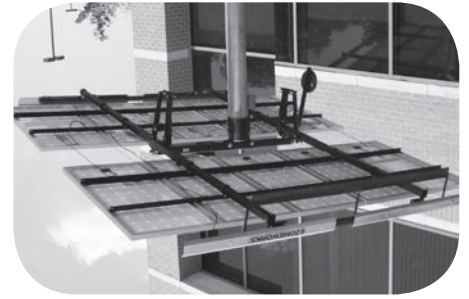
"It's critical that the whole industry is up to speed on alternative energy," says Andrew Porter, executive director of Washington, DC Chapter of NECA. "We're offering green building training in a variety of ways so that our skilled electricians can stay ahead of the curve."

Electrical Alliance Contractor Goes Solar Too

John E. Kelly and Sons Electrical Construction, Inc. is installing a 150 kilowatt solar array on its headquarters in Upper Marlboro. Construction will be completed by the end of 2008 and will power **50%** of the building.

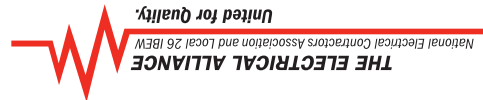
CONTINUED ON BACK

Story inside
**Solar Panels
 Save Resources
 and Provide New
 Training Equipment**



7910 Woodmont Ave.
 Suite 1330
 Bethesda, MD 20814
 Forwarding Service Requested

First Class Mail
 U.S. Postage PAID
 Washington, D.C.
 Permit No. 251



ClientCurrents

THE ELECTRICAL ALLIANCE
 National Electrical Contractors Association and Local 26 IBEW

United for Quality.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

IBEW, Local 26 electricians working for The Electric Shop installed ten 180-watt panels which are linked directly to the building and adjust to follow the sun all day. The power generated from the panels is used immediately. The panels have already produced 1043 kWh of power, saving over 1,775 pounds of carbon dioxide.

Green energy sources won't stop at solar panels. The JATC is continuing to learn how they can utilize other alternative energy sources.

"The JATC is investigating the possibility of installing Power Factor Correction capacitors on the building's electrical service," says Ralph Neidert, assistant director of the JATC. "This would offer stability to the transmission network, substantially lowering our electrical bill and allow us to offer training to members and contractors about this portion of the market."

The JATC plans on continuing its efforts by placing solar panels at other training facilities around the Washington, DC region.



Solar is Good for Business

Adding solar technologies to businesses:

- Provides positive financial returns (solar energy projects can generate positive cash flow immediately based on green financing options)
- Creates no emissions, no noise
- Provides a hedge against electric price volatility
- Provides energy supply to remote installations or buildings
- Creates a mobile energy supply for use in emergencies and disasters
- Provides an uninterrupted energy supply during blackouts with the use of batteries for power backup and energy storage

-from the U.S. Department of Energy