

# COLORADO

## SOLAR JOBS CENSUS 2017

There are 250,271 Americans working in solar as of 2017, according to The Solar Foundation's latest *National Solar Jobs Census*. Visit [SolarStates.org](http://SolarStates.org) to view an interactive map of solar jobs by state, county, metro area, and congressional district. Colorado, with its abundant sunlight and a robust solar industry, now has over 6,000 solar workers, ranking 9th for solar jobs nationwide.



### STATE SOLAR JOBS



**6,789**  
Solar Jobs



**9**  
State Ranking for  
Solar Jobs

**8**  
State Ranking for  
Solar Jobs Per Capita

**785** New Solar Jobs,  
2017

**13%** Solar Jobs  
Growth, 2017

**1.1%** Projected Jobs  
Growth, 2018

**8** State Rank  
by Solar Jobs  
Added in 2017

Solar jobs grew **5** times faster than the overall state economy in 2017.



### SOLAR JOBS BY SECTOR

Installation:



**3,196**

(7% increase ↑ from 2016)

Manufacturing:



**722**

(3% decrease ↓)

Sales &  
Distribution:



**632**

(19% increase ↑)

Project  
Development:



**1,313**

(17% increase ↑)

Other:



**925**

(51% increase ↑)



### SOLAR INDUSTRY CONTEXT

**997 MW**

Cumulative Installed  
Solar Capacity<sup>1</sup>

**12** State Ranking for  
Installed Solar Capacity<sup>1</sup>

**437**

Solar Companies<sup>2</sup>

**2.67%**

of State's Electricity  
Generation from Solar<sup>3</sup>

Enough Solar to Power **198,704** Homes<sup>1</sup>

**104**

K-12 Solar Schools<sup>4</sup>

**4.9%**

K-12 Schools  
Have Gone Solar<sup>4</sup>

# Top Metropolitan Statistical Areas for Solar Jobs

**166**  
Fort Collins-Loveland

**4,351**  
Denver-Aurora

**1,549**  
Boulder

**151**  
Colorado Springs



**COLORADO**

## DID YOU KNOW?

Boulder-based startup Wunder Capital built an online investment portal to connect individual, institutional, and corporate investors with commercial solar projects that need financing.



## SOLAR POLICY CONTEXT

**A**

Net Metering  
Policy Grade<sup>5</sup>

**B**

Interconnection  
Policy Grade<sup>5</sup>

Community Solar:<sup>6</sup>  
Legislation Enacted

Renewable  
Portfolio Standard:<sup>7</sup>

**30%**  
by 2020

**Legal Status of Third-Party Ownership:<sup>7</sup>**

Authorized by state or otherwise currently in use, at least in certain jurisdictions within the state

**22** State Ranking for  
Average Electricity Price  
(Highest to Lowest)<sup>3</sup>

**Renewable Portfolio  
Standard Solar Carveout:<sup>7</sup>**

**3%**

Distributed Generation  
(1.5% Customer-sited)

**Property Assessed Clean Energy  
Financing (PACE) Status:<sup>8</sup>**

PACE-enabling Legislation; Active  
Commercial PACE Programs

**9.98 cents/kWh**  
Average Electricity Price<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) and GTM Research, *U.S. Solar Market Insight*

<sup>2</sup> SEIA, National Solar Database

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Energy Information Administration

<sup>4</sup> The Solar Foundation, SEIA, and Generation 180, *Brighter Future: A Study on Solar in U.S. Schools, 2nd Edition*

<sup>5</sup> *Freeing the Grid 2015*, a joint project of Vote Solar, Interstate Renewable Energy Council, and EQ Research

<sup>6</sup> Shared Renewables HQ, an initiative of Vote Solar in partnership with Lee Barken

<sup>7</sup> North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center at North Carolina State University, Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency

<sup>8</sup> PACENation