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## **Photovoltaic Industry Certification Released**

GREENCASTLE, Ind. – To fulfill the industry’s need for certifications in green energy, ETA International has released the Photovoltaic Installer Level 1 certification, which launches an all-new certification program.

"With a certification, an Entry Level Installer can expect to start at about \$20 per hour and rise to about \$28 to \$32 per hour as a Journeyman," said Thomas P. Cawley, ETA Subject Matter Expert and Ameri-Skills, Chief Operating Officer. "Without a certification, it is nearly impossible to break into this field. Those who are lucky to get jobs as basic laborers will make between \$11 and \$18 per hour if they have some electrical experience."

Photovoltaic production has been doubling every two years, increasing by an average of 48% each year, since 2002, thus making it the world’s fastest-growing energy technology (Sustainability Investment News). The demand for a certification of this nature is on the rise in order to have skilled workers in the field.

The ETA Alternative Energy Program is aimed at being one of the most comprehensive certifications available today. It requires a hands-on training component that other certification providers do not require. Other energies to be covered in the program include: Wind, Passive Solar, Geothermal, Micro Hydro, Fuel Cells, and Stirling Technology. ETA is accredited and its programs follow the ISO-17024 standards.

"The level of technology needed to work in the alternative energy field goes hand-in-hand with the work ETA has been involved with for the past 31 years," stated Teresa Maher, ETA International President. "Certifying these installers will further validate the skills that employers are seeking in this tough economy."

The ETA Photovoltaic Installer Level 1 Certification fee is \$150. Learn more about ETA’s Alternative Energy Program at [www.certifymegreen.org](http://www.certifymegreen.org) or call 800.288.3824.

About ETA International - Founded in 1978, the Electronics Technicians Association, International is a not-for-profit, professional association committed to providing accredited certifications that meet the industry standards. The association’s initiatives are to provide prominent certification programs of competency criteria and testing benchmarks that steer international electronics standards and provides renowned professional credentials. Today, ETA has issued over 100,000 technical certifications to individuals covering more than 840 businesses and 50 certification programs. The association is comprised of over 3,500 members, 700 Subject Matter Experts (SME’s) serving on various Industry Advisory Committees and 1,000 Exam/Certification Administrators (CA’s).

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