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ETA[®] INTERNATIONAL



PRESS RELEASE

Surge in solar energy use prompts ETA to host training

ETA[®]International recently hosted a solar panel workshop by Blue Rock Station that gave students hands-on experience and prepared them to take the ETA Photovoltaic Installer certification exam to get a competitive edge in the solar energy workforce.

Greencastle, May 30, 2014: Solar energy is the cleanest and most abundant renewable energy source available. Recognizing solar's potential, ETA[®] International hosted a solar panel (photovoltaic) certification workshop in Greencastle the week of May 12th with trainer Jay Warmke, PVI, of Blue Rock Station, Ohio.

The five-day photovoltaic certification workshop trained the class to harness the energy of the sun and install solar panels. Individuals gained real world hands-on experience that prepared them to take ETA's Photovoltaic Installer (PV1) Level 1 certification exam and work in the solar energy field.

The course from Blue Rock Station was designed for beginners through electronics technicians and previous experience with electronics/electricity was not necessary. The class received hands-on experience with a working PV system to conceptualize a design; compare costs of various products; dismantle, trouble shoot and reinstall to ensure proper operation; along with an emphasis on rooftop safety. The class also learned how to integrate a working wind turbine into the photovoltaic system.

According to a recent report by National Geographic, solar energy use has surged at about 20 percent a year over the past 15 years, thanks to rapidly falling prices and gains in efficiency. Solar energy consistently climbs in its level of contribution to the global energy demand. As interest in renewable energy technology increases, ETA anticipates hosting more of these types of certification workshops.

“ETA intends to lead the industry in providing necessary certifications to insure that there are competent installers certified and available to work on photovoltaic systems and in other high-tech professions,” said ETA President Teresa Maher, CSS.

Contact Blue Rock Station at (740) 674-4300 or www.bluerockstation.com for further details and to learn more about renewable energy. You can also visit www.certifymegreen.org for more information.

Since 1978, ETA has issued over 150,000 professional certifications. ETA certifications are widely recognized and frequently used in worker job selection, hiring processes, pay increases, advancements, and often required as companies bid on contracts. ETA's certifications are personal and travel with the individual, regardless of employment or status change and measure competencies of persons, not products or vendors. ETA certifications are accredited through the International Certification Accreditation Council (ICAC) and align with the ISO-17024 standard. www.eta-i.org

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Jay Warmke, PV-1, Blue Rock Station, watches as Jesse Kreider of Ohio and Edward Kirkpatrick and Marwin Dean, both of Greencastle, complete the assembly of a solar panel.