



BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE GREEN ECONOMY STRONG ENOUGH TO LIFT PEOPLE OUT OF POVERTY

*This is a living document – please inform us of green certifications used by green industry in your area by emailing [ladan@greenforall.org](mailto:ladan@greenforall.org)*

## Green Job Certifications

**Entry Level** (including workers without degrees or prior certification in building trades)

- **U.S. Department of Labor-funded workforce training programs** – Many DOL-funded workforce development programs now include a green building component.
- **Occupational Safety and Health Administration** issues OSHA 40 Hazardous Waste Operations certificates and OSHA 10 Site Safety certificates. Each allows an individual to be a hazardous waste handler and an asbestos abatement mechanic.
- **EPA HVAC Certification** – Allows someone to be an energy efficiency services technician in heating, ventilation, and air conditioning industry
- **Home Builders Institute** –HBI offers a **Residential Construction Academy Series**, a training program based on national standards set by the residential construction industry for essential workplace skills in the areas of carpentry, electrical, HVAC, plumbing, facilities maintenance, and masonry, and includes green, sustainable construction techniques. Used in pre-apprenticeship programs such as YouthBuild, Job Corps, vocational programs offered by high schools, workforce development programs, community colleges, correctional facilities, and trade unions. HBI recognizes certain training programs as “credentialed” if they meet certain criteria associated with the RCA Series. Credentialing allows students access to the online National Registry and HBI can match the provider with local Home Builder Associations for industry connections.
  - Home Builders Institute: [www.hbi.org](http://www.hbi.org)
  - Residential Construction Academy: [www.residentialacademy.delmar.cengage.com](http://www.residentialacademy.delmar.cengage.com)
- **Building Professional** – Allows someone to be an energy efficiency services technician in heating, ventilation, and air conditioning industry
- **Building Performance Institute (BPI)** and **Green Advantage** are both developing entry-level green certifications.

**Skilled Labor** (for those who already have some experience)

- **Union apprenticeship programs:** Unions around the country provide much of the quality training in construction careers that are the foundation for many green jobs. Many unions are greening their apprenticeship programs.
- **Building Performance Institute (BPI)** –BPI certification areas are Building Analyst, Air Conditioning and Heating, Building Envelope, and Multifamily. BPI certification for contractors and auditors includes written and field practical examinations.
  - Building Performance Institute: [www.bpi.org](http://www.bpi.org)



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- **Green Advantage® Certification for commercial and residential practitioners** – Green Advantage® is an environmental certification for building-related practitioners, primarily contractors, subcontractors, and trades people. The exam covers green building industry issues such as green building materials, siting and design.
  - Green Advantage®: [www.greenadvantage.org](http://www.greenadvantage.org)
- **National Association of Home Builders (NAHB): Certified Green Professional™ (CGP)** – The National Association of Home Builders CGP designation recognizes builders, remodelers, and other industry professionals who incorporate green building principles into homes without driving up the cost of construction. NAHB recently released the “National Green Building Standard” for all residential construction work, approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI); it is intended to be an alternative, not a replacement, for LEED for Homes (LEED-H).
  - NAHB Certified Green Professional: [www.nahb.org/category.aspx?sectionID=1174](http://www.nahb.org/category.aspx?sectionID=1174)
- **The North American Board for Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP)** <http://www.nabcep.org/certification> offers:
  - Solar Photovoltaic and Solar Thermal Installer Certifications
  - Small Wind Certification (under consideration)
- **The National Association of the Remodeling Industry’s (NARI) Green Certified Professional (GCP):** designed to recognize and identify remodelers who apply green or sustainable principles to their remodeling projects. NARI: [www.nari.org](http://www.nari.org)
- **Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET): Home Energy Rating System (HERS):** RESNET is a membership 501(c)(3) organization and its standards are officially recognized by the U.S. mortgage industry for capitalizing a building’s energy performance in a mortgage loan, certification of “White Tags” for private financial investors, and by the federal government for verification of building energy performance for such programs as federal tax incentives, the Environmental Protection Agency’s Energy Star program, and the U.S. Department of Energy’s Building America Program.
  - RESNET: [www.natresnet.org](http://www.natresnet.org)
  - HERS Rating: <http://hersrater.net>
- **Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA) offers EPA Refrigerant Certification.** Clean Air Act section 608 requires that individuals working on air conditioning and ventilation systems receive EPA Refrigerant Certification. ACCA offers a certification training program and tests.
- **North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners® (NABCEP) –systems.** NABCEP Entry Level Certificate Program [www.nabcep.org/certificates/entry-level-certificate-program](http://www.nabcep.org/certificates/entry-level-certificate-program)
- **National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) National Association of Home Builders** offers **Home Builders Institute (HBI)** curriculum for Workforce Training & Employment, which is an apprenticeship program in residential construction offered to targeted populations.



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## Realtor Certifications

- **National Association of Realtors® (NAR) Green Designation** – The Green Resource Council administers NAR’s Green Designation, which is designed to address the concerns of consumers who want real estate professionals with real green expertise. Green Resource Council: [www.greenresourcecouncil.org](http://www.greenresourcecouncil.org)
- **EcoBroker®** – EcoBroker Certified professionals help clients market properties with green features, save money, and live comfortably, through energy efficiency and environmentally-sensitive choices. Training and certification are overseen the Association of Energy and Environmental Real Estate Professionals ([www.aerep.org](http://www.aerep.org)). EcoBroker.com: [www.ecobroker.com](http://www.ecobroker.com)
- **Appraisal Institute:** [www.appraisalinstitute.org](http://www.appraisalinstitute.org)
- **American Lung Association of Washington: Master Home Environmentalist Program:** [www.alaw.org/air\\_quality/master\\_home\\_environmentalist](http://www.alaw.org/air_quality/master_home_environmentalist)

## Professional Designer (Architect/Engineer) Designation

- **Build-It-Green – The Certified Green Building Professional (CGBP) Build-It-Green CGBP:** [www.builditgreen.org/cgbp](http://www.builditgreen.org/cgbp)
- **Green Building Certification Institute’s (GBCI) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Professional Accreditation –**
  - Green Building Certification Institute: [www.gbci.org](http://www.gbci.org)
  - U.S. Green Building Council: <http://www.usgbc.org>

## Energy Management

- **The Association of Energy Engineers** offers a number of certifications, including a Certified Energy Manager exam. You do not have to be an engineer to take this certification.
  - Association of Energy Engineers – <http://www.aeecenter.org>