

# Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA)

## Solar Ready Wisconsin

---

Nick Hylla – Principal Investigator

Amiee Wetmore – Business Manager

# Role of Team Members

---

## **Awardee: MREA**

Project management, curriculum development, instructor development, industry connections, internships, advanced installation training, student endorsement program, promotion and replication.

## **Partners:**

- **Mid-State Tech College**
- **Madison College**
- **Northeast Wisconsin Tech College**
- **Chippewa Valley Tech College**

# Background

- Non-Profit with 2,100+ Members
- Offices in Central Wisconsin, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis
- PV Professional Training
- PV Technical Assistance
- Consumer Education
- The Energy Fair
- [MidwestRenew.org](http://MidwestRenew.org), [GrowSolar.org](http://GrowSolar.org), [TheEnergyFair.org](http://TheEnergyFair.org)
- [SolarEnergy.jobs](http://SolarEnergy.jobs) coming soon!



# Project Objectives

## Overarching Project Goal

Develop a statewide network of jurisdictions, industry stakeholders, training providers, and non-profit organizations working to improve workforce readiness in Wisconsin and expand successful programs to neighboring states.



# Project Objectives

---

## Objective 1:

Manage a statewide workforce initiative, the *Wisconsin Solar Corps*, to facilitate site-based training, entry level work experience, and job placement for newly-trained professionals

## Objective 2:

Establish a shared *Advanced PV Installation Course* with four Wisconsin technical college partners to facilitate peer exchange between instructors and provide worksite experience to 60 newly-trained professionals.

# Project Objectives

---

## Objective 3:

Develop a statewide network of PV contractors and technical college training programs to facilitate 36 paid internships for newly-trained professionals.

## Objective 4:

Replicate the successful and transferable aspects of the *Solar Corps* workforce development model with 6 additional technical and community college partners in IL, MN, and/or IA.

# Project Implementation

## The 'Solar Corps'

- High-visibility, High-Impact PV Projects
- Statewide Industry Partnership

## Advanced Installation Training

- Credit-Bearing Technical College Course
- Contractor Partnerships

## Internships

- PV Design, Sales, Installation, Maintenance
- 160-hours with Partnering Contractor

## Student Endorsement

- MREA Professional Endorsement Program
- Professional Development Opportunities

MREA will lead the *Wisconsin Solar Corps* to facilitate collaboration between leading technical college training programs, increase student work experience, and facilitate workforce training on high impact/high visibility PV installations in Wisconsin communities by offering credit-bearing advanced installation training and internships with a statewide network of PV contractors.

# Project Results

## Stakeholder Participation

- 10 Contractors
- 10 Technical Colleges

## Advanced Training

- 66 Students complete Advanced Install Courses
- 90 Stakeholders Complete CE Courses

## Internships

- 10 Contracts Host Internships from 10 Colleges
- 66 Students Complete 160-hour Internships

## Regional Replication

- Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota
- At least 3 colleges, 12 Internships/Advanced Courses

The 'Solar Ready' initiative will leverage the MREA's network of industry, training, and jurisdiction partners to sustain a regional focus on solar workforce development to facilitate multi-stakeholders workforce development partnerships and elevate the public profile of the solar industry.



# What does Success Look like?

A network of technical colleges, industry stakeholders, jurisdictions, and local workforce development boards working to improve workforce recruitment, training, career placement, and professional advancement to support a growing, advantageous, and diversified market for PV in Wisconsin and surrounding states.



## Project Outcomes

10 technical college training programs collaborating with at least 10 industry employers to support more than 60 students in PV career advancement.

## Project Impact and Sustainability

Regional collaboration to support local, multi-stakeholder workforce partnerships that establish effective training and career placement pathways in the PV industry