

# The Just Solar Returning Citizens Initiative

*Hire dedicated staff, help your community, and save money*

**The Just Solar Returning Citizens Initiative** is a program that is supported by Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light and Solar Bear in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Corrections. The program functions to train formerly incarcerated citizens in **solar installation and site evaluation**, while also awarding them a solar PVC certificate from the Minnesota DOC. Individuals are also qualified to take the NABCEP PV Associate Exam. Hiring a returning citizen as part of your team can help your solar business succeed. Returning citizens are highly dedicated, motivated and hard-working individuals who will add value and efficiency to any solar project, while helping your business succeed financially.

There is a strong need for individuals trained in solar technology, especially in Minnesota, where **solar jobs increased by 253%** between 2013 to 2016. With the sharp increase in solar related jobs in MN and across the country there is a high demand for individuals who are qualified to install and handle solar projects: that's where The Just Solar Returning Citizens Initiative can help.

The individuals trained through the Just Solar Returning Citizens Initiative are an asset to you as a business owner. Returning citizens are highly dedicated, motivated and hard-working. Furthermore, the **federal government offers a tax credit of \$2,400 for each returning citizen hired**, meaning your business could save thousands of dollars a year. Businesses might feel that there is a certain amount of risk when hiring returning citizens, but the federal government protects businesses with the Minnesota Federal Bonding Program by providing **paperwork-free insurance** for companies who hire formerly incarcerated individuals.

Beyond the federal monetary benefits of hiring previously incarcerated individuals, society and the planet benefit as well. As a state we pay to keep each person in prison, but what happens when we take those people and offer them the skills to succeed in the solar industry? As a society we save money by no longer paying the taxes to keep these returning citizens in prison and instead employing them to install solar. This process has many trickle down effects as businesses, communities and individuals begin to save money on electricity by harnessing the power of the sun. **Help be a part of this movement that not only helps these future solar employees and the world around us, but also your business and its success.**

## To get started, please contact:

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