



## Updating Oregon's Limited Renewable Energy Technician (LRT) License

Updating the LRT will grow the solar industry, creating more jobs for LRTs and electricians alike.

### Oregon's Solar Market

Every year there are dozens of residential projects over 25 kW & commercial projects are routinely over 100kW and up to 2MW.

5 largest residential projects with Energy Trust of Oregon incentives:

Utility	Year Installed	kW (DC)
PGE	2013	55
PGE	2016	40.4
PAC	2017	33.6
PGE	2012	30.4
PAC	2018	27

5 largest net-metered commercial projects with Energy Trust of Oregon incentives:

Utility	Year Installed	kW (DC)
PAC	2016	1998.4
PGE	2018	943.8
PGE	2008	859.4
PAC	2016	504.8
PGE	2012	497.3

\* Additional 23 projects > than 250kW and 100+ projects > 100kW.



OSEIA has worked with IBEW over the last year and has come to an agreement on this bill as a good first step.

## Bill # SB 338

### OSEIA, IBEW & NECA have agreed on the following two changes to the LRT license:

1. Allow LRTs to work up to the first AC disconnect on the load side of the distribution panel.
  - a. **Why?** Technology has changed and many PV systems now have micro inverters at the modules resulting in AC wiring between the modules (typically on the roof) and the PV system disconnect. This update would not change the existing requirement for a full electrician to connect the solar system to the grid point of interconnection
2. Increase the project size cap that LRTs can install from 25 kW to 50 kW.
  - a. **Why?** In 2001, 25 kW was the state's net-metering cap and was viewed as a large system. With today's more efficient technology, the net-metering cap has increased to 2 MW and there are a large number of rooftop solar installations above 25 kW.

### The OSEIA, IBEW & NECA proposed bill makes two changes to existing law:

1. Increases the projects size LRTs can work on from 25 kW to 50kW.
2. A technical change to allow the LRT license to include all DC wiring and connections and AC wiring and connections to the termination of the factory-provided interconnecting cables and outside of a distribution panelboard.

### IBEW and NECA support this bill:



PO Box 14927, Portland Oregon 97293  
Angela Crowley-Koch / angela@oseia.org





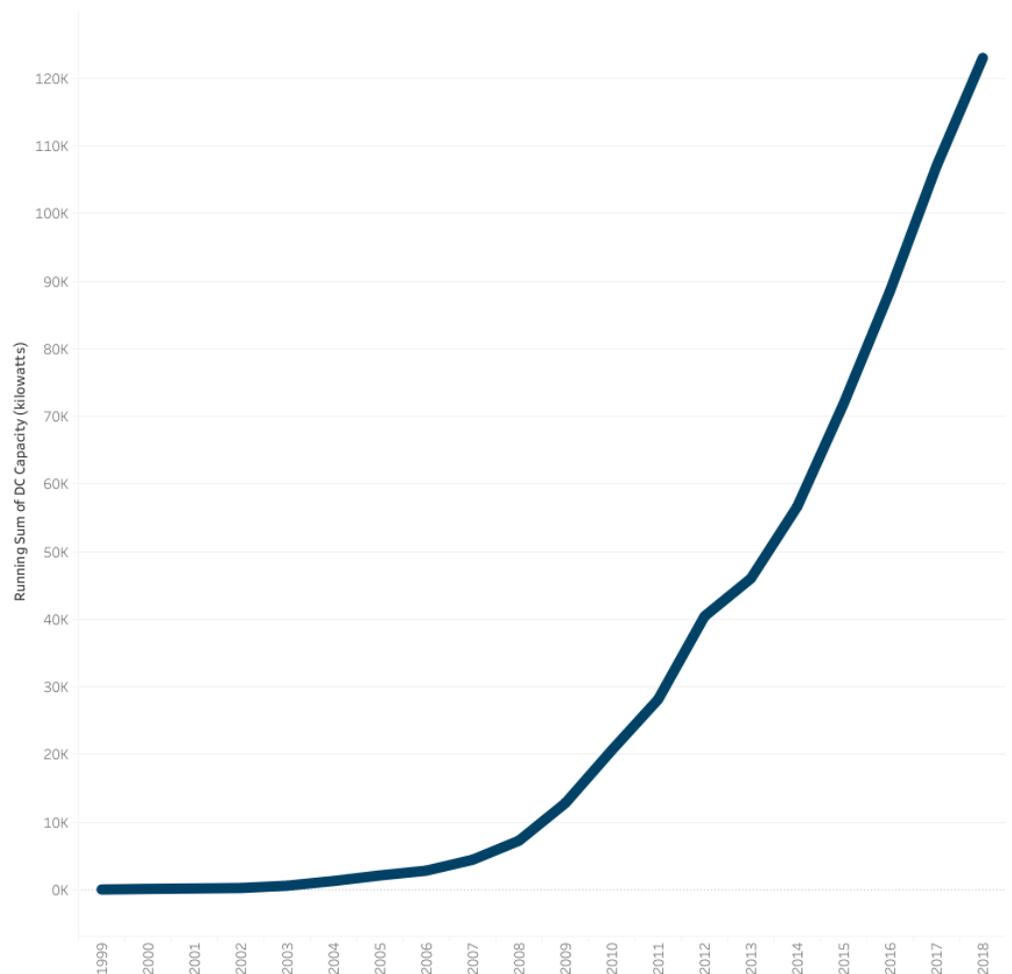
## Key LRT Information

- Est. 2001 in recognition of Oregon's growing renewable energy industry
- As the law was written in 2001, LRTs can install solar up to 25 kW of DC
- Since 2001 technology has improved and costs have come down, leading the solar industry to seek an update to the LRT license
- Today 58% of Oregon solar companies have difficulty filling licensed electrician jobs and 32% have difficulty filling LRT jobs<sup>1</sup>



**Solar installations in Oregon have increased exponentially and there is high demand for a skilled workforce.**

Running Total of Installed DC Capacity in Oregon  
Commercial and Residential Sector Only



**High demands on installation and workforce capacity due to Portland Clean Energy Fund, possible passage of Clean Energy Jobs Bill and a growing interest in resilience solar+storage can offer will also create opportunities for LRT and Electricians.**