

Attachment C

Individual Certifications: PV, ST, Energy Efficiency

Background

Certification is a procedure by which an independent third-party organization gives written assurance that an individual conforms to specified standards, usually by requiring a written, and sometimes a field or practical examination. As a result of meeting the requirements and passing the exam, professionals receive their certification that publicly witnesses their proficiency.

NYSERDA's Solar PV incentive program (PON 2112), currently requires eligible installers to fulfill either NABCEP certification or IBEW-NECA (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers-National Electrical Contractors Association) Electrical Journeyman and Apprentice Training requirements.

The UL PV System Installer Certification requires an individual to pass an exam intended to measure the necessary competencies for a qualified electrical professional with OSHA 30-hour safety training for construction and several years of hands-on experience in the field. NABCEP's program for professional certification (for system design, sales and/or installation) has achieved American National Standards Institute (ANSI)¹ accreditation.

NYSERDA's Home Performance with ENERGY STAR[®] (HPw/ES) requires participating contractors to obtain and maintain BPI Company Accreditation and a participating contractor must dedicate a different BPI Certified Professional for each Market Region in which it chooses to operate. BPI certifications (Building Analyst, Envelope Professional, Heating, and Air Conditioning and Heat Pump) demonstrate capabilities of diagnosing critical performance factors in a home that impact comfort, health, safety, durability and energy efficiency. The BPI Residential Building Envelope Whole House Air Leakage Installer has achieved ANSI accreditation, and BPI has recently earned ISO 17024 accreditation of its advanced Home Energy Professional (HEP) certifications by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). The four certifications -Energy Auditor, Retrofit Installer, Crew Leader and Quality Control Inspector- are the only credentials available to the home performance and weatherization industry that are supported by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and its National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and accredited by ANSI. The four HEP certifications provide advanced certification options and will not replace BPI's existing certifications in the industry. These new credentials complement and build upon BPI's existing certifications in the home performance career ladder, where increased knowledge and skills lead to advancement. They are designed to allow professionals in the home energy upgrade industry to build both a stackable and lateral career lattice.

NYSERDA will provide financial support to individuals and participating partners obtaining certifications related to energy efficiency skills and competencies necessary to meet the goals of the SBC or EEPS programs. Eligible individuals are those, for example, who achieve certifications from the Building Performance Institute (BPI), Association of Energy Engineers (AEE), International Facility Management Association (IFMA), American Society of Heating Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), Northwest Energy Efficiency Council Building Operator Certification (BOC), National Council on Qualifications for the Lighting Professions (NCQLP), North American Technician Excellence (NATE), and other certifications relevant to energy efficiency skills and competencies. In the future, other certifications that have achieved the same standard will be considered and may be eligible for incentives under this program.

¹ ANSI/ISO/IEC 17024 specify requirements which ensure that organizations operating certification systems for persons operate in a consistent, comparable, and reliable manner. This accreditation includes rigorous requirements for examination development and maintenance and for quality management systems. ANSI/ISO/IEC 17024 has been approved by 85 countries.

Eligibility Summary Table: Individual Certifications

	NABCEP PV and ST (installer, designer, sales technician) and UL PV System Installer Certifications	Non-BPI Energy Efficiency Certifications	BPI Certifications
Eligible Entities	NYS Individuals	NYS Individuals	NYS Individuals
Eligible Locations/Regions	Statewide	SBC territory ² only	Statewide
Incentives	100% exam fees, capped at \$1,000 per certification and \$3,000 per individual	50% exam fees, capped at \$600 per certification and \$6,000 per individual	50% exam fees, capped at \$600 per certification and \$6,000 per individual

Funding

- A) **NABCEP PV and ST and UL PV System Installer Certifications:** Eligible individuals, located statewide who successfully obtain NABCEP PV, ST and/or UL PV System Installer certifications or recertification may qualify to receive 100% reimbursement for the costs associated with examination and application fees. Incentives are capped at \$1,000 per certification and \$3,000 per individual. NYSEDA counts toward the cap any certification reimbursement received by an individual starting January 1, 2012. Please note that this is for NABCEP and UL “CERTIFICATIONS” only, and is NOT for general certificates of completion or “passing score achievement documents” that are sometimes issued for entry level exams.
- B) *Non-BPI Energy Efficiency Individual Certifications* (and certification renewals) - eligible individuals, located in SBC territory who successfully obtain energy efficiency related certifications or certification renewals from third-party national organizations³ may be eligible to receive 50% reimbursement of the costs associated with certification examination and application fees. Incentives are capped at \$600 per certification and \$6,000 per individual. NYSEDA counts toward the cap any certification reimbursement received by an individual starting January 1, 2012.
- C) BPI Certifications (and certification renewals) – eligible individuals, located statewide who successfully obtain BPI related certifications or certification renewals may be eligible to receive 50% reimbursement of the costs associated with certification examination and application fees. Incentives are capped at \$600 per certification and \$6,000 per individual. NYSEDA counts toward the cap any certification reimbursement received by an individual starting January 1, 2012.

Application Requirements

Applicants applying for reimbursement of costs associated with the fees for certification must: 1) completely fill out **Form C**; 2) provide proof of successfully obtaining certification (Certificate of Completion); (3) provide paid invoices for eligible costs (see Funding section above); 4) provide the first page of a recent electric bill with the company name and address to verify eligibility; and 5) provide a W-9 or include the Tax Identification number on Form C. Incentives will not be paid unless a W-9 is on file.

² For applicants (companies, training organizations, or individuals) must be located/reside in a System Benefits Charge (SBC) service territory. (Areas with electric service provided by Central Hudson Gas and Electric Corp., Consolidated Edison of NY, Inc., NYS Electric and Gas Corp., National Grid, Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc., and Rochester Gas and Electric.)

³ Association of Energy Engineers (AEE), International Facility Management Association (IFMA), American Society of Heating Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), Northwest Energy Efficiency Council Building Operator Certification (BOC), National Council on Qualifications for the Lighting Professions (NCQLP), North American Technician Excellence (NATE), and other certifications relevant to energy efficiency skills and competencies necessary to support SBC or EEPs programs.

Payment Process

The incentive payment for practitioner certifications will be made in one lump sum once the reimbursement application has been reviewed and approved by NYSERDA and in accordance with NYSERDA's Prompt Payment Policy Statement (Exhibit B to Attachment D).

Certification Reimbursement Application PON 2397 Form C

Requested Payee: Reimburse Candidate Reimburse Company
place a (✓) in one of the boxes above

Candidates seeking reimbursement for Certification(s) shall submit the following documents to NYSERDA, ATTN: Lori Clark, 17 Columbia Circle, Albany, NY 12203.

Please include the following in your submission package. Place a (✓) next to each attachment.

- Certification Reimbursement Application – PON 2397 Form C
- Proof of payment of fees – see Attachment C of PON 2397 for fee eligibility (paid invoice, credit card statements, and cancelled check)
- Copy of Certificate of Completion for each designation
- Copy of the Payee’s first page of your recent electric bill
- Attach W-9 or include your Tax Identification number below

If you have any questions, please contact: Lori Clark at Lori.Clark@nyserda.ny.gov 518-862-1090 ext 3202.

Candidate (Payee) Information			
Full Name:			
Address:			
City		State:	ZIP:
Telephone:			
E-Mail			
Tax ID #:			
Company (Payee) Information			
Legal Business Name:			
Business Address:			
City		State:	ZIP:
Telephone:			
E-Mail			
Business Website:			
Tax ID #:			

