

Dan Clapp of ReVision energy installs solar panels on the roof of a home in Hampton Falls on Thursday.



Solar jobs on the rise

By GRETLY MACALASTER
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HAMPTON FALLS — Across the nation, solar jobs are on the rise — and New Hampshire is no exception.

Employees of ReVision Energy installed solar panels on the roof of a home at 68 Exeter Road on Thursday and talked about solar expansion into the Granite State.

The Maine-based company is opening an office in Brentwood next week, and it expects to add 10-15 more New Hampshire jobs.

ReVision Energy was started by four partners in 2003 and has grown to a company of 32 full-time employees with increasing demand for its services.

It's not the only solar-focused company seeing this kind of growth.

On Thursday, Environment New Hampshire released a report from the Solar Foundation, a non-profit solar education and research organization,

which shows hiring in the solar workforce on the rise nationwide.

The report is an attempt to quantify the current employment and projected growth of the nation's solar industry. "National Solar Jobs Census 2010: A Review of the Solar Workforce" reports that more than half of solar-industry employers nationally also plan to increase their workforce in the next year.

"This report shows we are on the way to tapping the sun's potential, generating pollution-free energy and a tremendous number of good, green jobs along the way," Jessica O'Hare, program associate with Environment New Hampshire, said.

Solar employers nationwide expect to increase the number of solar workers by 26 percent, or nearly 24,000 net new jobs by next August. That rate is higher than both the expected 3 percent loss in fossil fuel power generation and the economy-

wide expectation of 2 percent growth over the same period, O'Hare said.

Dan Clapp, New Hampshire

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GRETLY MACALASTER

Joshua Baston of ReVision Energy carries a solar panel to the roof of a home in Hampton Falls Thursday.

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Branch Manager for ReVision, said tax incentives and rebates at the federal and state level are driving the industry's growth.

Also helping is a steady decline in the price of solar panels and increased focus on goals of sustainable energy use.

Homeowners Tony Delano and Nancy Roka said without the tax incentives, the 21 solar panels going on their roof would not have become a reality for them.

Delano said he will receive a 30 percent tax rebate on the

solar array from the federal government and has been approved for a \$6,000 rebate from the state. He expects to save more than \$800 a year in energy costs.

State Sen. Martha Fuller Clark, chair of the Senate Energy, Environment and Economic Development Committee, was on hand for the announcement and installation and said it is "outstanding" that ReVision Energy is growing in the state.

KW Management in Nashua

is also growing, training electricians in renewable energy systems.

KW Management has been in business for 20 years and has been doing solar electric installations for 12 years. Owner Mike Weissflog said about 75 percent of its workload now is renewables, including solar electric, solar hot water, geothermal heat pumps and energy auditing services.

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