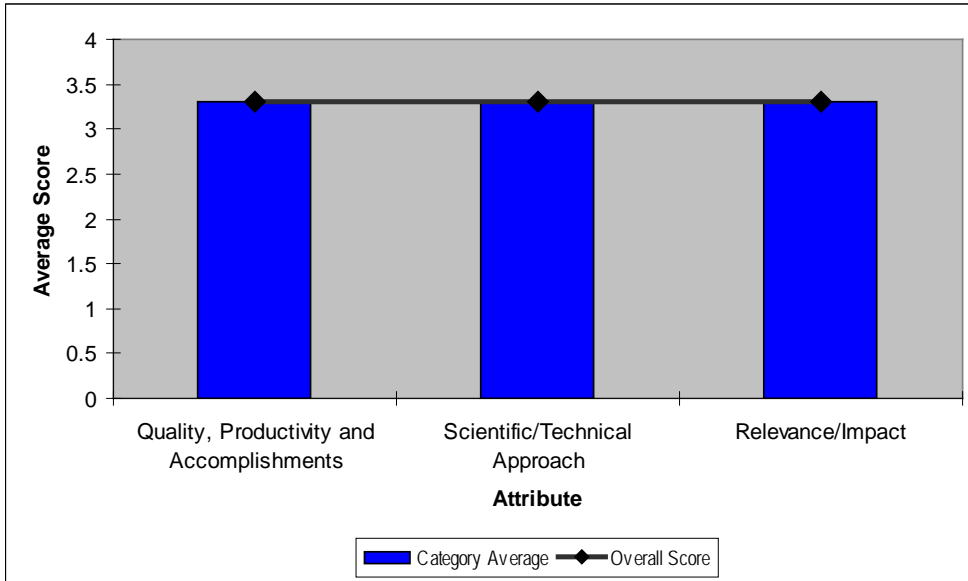


Training and Certification, PV Installer Certification

Principal Investigator: *Rebecca Eaton, North America Board of Certified Energy Practitioners*



Quality, Productivity and Accomplishments (Average Rating 3.3)

Rating Comments

4.0 Given that NABCEP is in the early stage of development as an organization, the majority of the work is accomplished by volunteers. While the stakeholder involvement is critical, relying on volunteers and part-time staff may hinder the ability for NABCEP to expand.

na RECUSED FROM REVIEWING THIS PROJECT

3.0 • The NABCEP Board of Directors has good representation from the solar industry and labor/educational institutions.
 • The solar “task analyses” are developed by a technical committee of subject matter experts.
 • The certification exams are offered twice annually and 164 individuals received the solar PV certification in 2008, which seems like a small number. It is not clear whether this is a result of lack of awareness, lack of interest in receiving the certification, limited funding for testing, etc.

3.0 NABCEP continues to deliver solid national certification procedures for solar integrators. Quality remains high as demonstrated by 3rd party inspectors. However, productivity and accomplishments would still benefit from a more quantitative measurement in order to assess their contributions. Third party validation is valuable, but a portrayal by NABCEP on \$cost/certified individual, for example, would be beneficial in the context of market transformation budgets.

Scientific/Technical Approach (Average Rating 3.3)

Rating	Comments
4.0	Certification process is well thought out and uses recognized standards. The challenge will be to reach a point where NABCEP is financially independent.
na	RECUSED FROM REVIEWING THIS PROJECT
3.0	Greater attention to awareness building seems warranted.
3.0	NABCEP does a very good job in engaging at the stakeholder level for a broad based certification program. This approach is the only viable approach for a national certification initiative like NABCEP.

Relevance/Impact (Average Rating 3.3)

Rating	Comments
4.0	The certification process from NABCEP is a critical component to building a sustainable, high quality network of trained installers. It raises the level of professionalism in the industry by setting very high standards for the certificate.
na	RECUSED FROM REVIEWING THIS PROJECT
3.0	The project emphasis on installer education and certification is an important factor for increasing solar energy installations and creating a well-trained, competitive solar workforce.
3.0	NABCEP does a very good job in engaging at the stakeholder level for a broad based certification program. This approach is the only viable approach for a national certification initiative like NABCEP.

Overall (Average Rating 3.3)

Rating	Comments
4.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- One requirement for the certificate is experience. Is there a standard for determining the quality of the experience?- Can NABCEP become financially self-sufficient with revenues from exams?
na	RECUSED FROM REVIEWING THIS PROJECT
3.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The fact that surveys show that systems installed by NABCEP-certified installers have had fewer problems at the point of inspection than systems installed by non-certified installers provides one indication of project success.• Efforts like this are likely to become even more important given the increased federal emphasis on clean energy and jobs creation. However, at 164 in 2008, the overall number of annual certifications seems low.• Given the importance of expanding the solar workforce, DOE should review the overall efficacy of the program with an eye toward providing additional funding if warranted.
3.0	NABCEP work continues to feed the base of the labor pool for the PV market. One area the team should consider is how they can accelerate their training/certification through broader partnerships with local schools and community colleges. The industry will need thousands of well qualified individuals, and the faster NABCEP can work their programs into standard curriculums, the greater success the overall industry will realize.

