Solar power is more affordable, accessible, and prevalent in the United States than ever before. Since 2008, U.S. installations have grown seventeen-fold from 1.2 gigawatts (GW) to and estimated 20 GW today.

But for solar power to continue down the path of progress, the nation needs a workforce capable of bringing its potential to full fruition – qualified electricians and contractors available for your projects.

That’s where the Powering America team comes in.

Jointly, we have invested millions of dollars in training programs uniquely positioned to provide the skilled workers the nation demands to push solar forward. From Massachusetts to Minnesota, Ohio to Oregon, the NECA/IBEW team through its electrical training ALLIANCE, is actively training union electricians in the installation and maintenance of the latest solar technology.
With more than 300 training centers across America, the electrical training ALLIANCE offers apprentices and journeymen a range of rigorous, precision "green Job” training that puts them at the forefront of the renewable power movement. In California, Local 595 put its renewable energy skills on display in a radical redesign of its own training center, combining wind turbines with solar panels to create a building that produces as much energy as it consumes – making it one of a handful of U.S. Department of Energy designated “zero net energy buildings” in the country and one of the first achieved by retrofitting an existing commercial building.

On a recent trip to our Denver training facility, Rep. Ed Perlmutter of Colorado said, “This system that NECA and the IBEW have put in place is what we’ve got to do across the nation – no ifs, ands or buts. It’s very simple: it’s good for jobs and it’s good for the climate.”