



## CAREER PROFILE

# Renewable Energy Engineer

### JOB OUTLOOK<sup>4</sup>

Employment of mechanical engineers across industries is projected to grow in the next ten years. Mechanical engineers who are well trained in the latest technology and tools will be most competitive for a wide range of job prospects. Renewable energy resource management is a field that is bound to continue to grow as well, as energy sources are rapidly diversified. As the world's population continues to grow and communities become more engaged in ensuring their energy sources are safe, reliable, and clean, mechanical engineers will be needed to navigate the integration of DERs into utility grids.

### SALARY RANGE<sup>5</sup>

\$71,900–\$114,400

### WHO ARE THEY?<sup>1,2,3</sup>

With the ever-increasing global population and the subsequent energy demands, we need professionals who can research innovative energy sources and are able to develop long term energy solutions. Those professionals are renewable energy engineers.

Renewable energy engineers research and develop methods for producing energy from renewable or sustainable sources. Some examples of renewable energy are solar power, wind power, hydropower, and geothermal energy. These engineers work on designing new machines, developing innovative processes, and discovering efficiencies, all with the goal of producing energy that has a minimal impact on the environment. Renewable energy engineers are found in all facets of sustainable energy production—project planning, research and development, equipment installation and testing, working with energy providers, and more!



## CAREER PROFILE

# Distributed Energy Resources Engineer

### EDUCATION/ TRAINING<sup>2,4</sup>

- Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering or a related engineering discipline
- Intern or professional experience with distributed energy resources preferred
- On-the-job training

### HOW DO I BECOME ONE?<sup>4</sup>

Renewable energy engineers will likely have a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering or a closely related engineering field. To obtain this degree, they will follow a path with courses in mathematics, life and physical sciences, engineering, and design. Many mechanical engineering degrees require internships and co-ops, which would be a great opportunity for students to see if specialization in distributed energy resources would be a good fit. Those who want to be competitive for more advanced job opportunities could consider pursuing a master's degree. High school students can prepare for this career by concentrating on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) courses, building mathematics, problem-solving, and mechanical skills that will be highly applicable.

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<sup>1</sup> "What are distributed energy resources and how do they work?" ARENAWIRE. <https://arena.gov.au/blog/what-are-distributed-energy-resources>.

<sup>2</sup> "Distributed Energy Resources Engineer." Clean Energy Resource Teams. <https://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/distributed-energy-resources-engineer>.

<sup>3</sup> "What Does a Mechanical Engineer Do?" Iowa State University. <https://www.me.iastate.edu/what-does-a-mechanical-engineer-do>.

<sup>4</sup> "Occupational Outlook Handbook." U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/architecture-and-engineering/mechanical-engineers.htm>.

<sup>5</sup> "Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics." U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. <https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes172141.htm>.