College students need all the experience they can get to build their résumés and prepare for jobs and careers in the real world. They need collaboration, presentation and other essential work-ready skills typically not found in a traditional classroom setting.

The SunPower Horizons™ program is a STEM education enrichment program designed to provide experiences and opportunities to increase students’ readiness for careers in renewable energy fields. These experiences help make direct connections between science, mathematics and engineering coursework and some of the challenges they will face in the outside world.

SunPower Horizons Program

- Provides unique, hands-on learning opportunities that reinforce both technical and soft work-ready essential skills
- Promotes critical thinking, problem-solving and collaboration
- Offers industry experience and exposure to the many potential careers available in the renewable energy sector
- Builds networking skills and establishes connections with potential future employers

The SunPower Horizons Program is actively preparing the next generation of leaders in engineering, solar energy and sustainability. It helps students who are developing real career goals envision a successful, meaningful future—and helps put that future within their grasp.

“The Academy really launched a lot of things for me. It gave me a lot of insight into the engineering field, and the hands-on, work-based skills, the collaboration and networking experience and the entrepreneurial spirit I gained really helped me get accepted into Stanford.”

Mizarhy Aquino, Summer Solar Energy Academy Participant, Antioch, California
SunPower Horizons™ – Higher Education Program Components

SunPower has not only developed the solar industry’s most efficient,¹ most reliable² solar panels, we’ve also developed a comprehensive, substantive enrichment program that helps students connect their coursework to potential careers.

The SunPower Horizons program includes a variety of learning opportunities and activities for college students. Each college may select one or any combination of these offerings.

In the Classroom

The SunPower Horizons program takes traditional classroom learning to the next level. Through a project-based approach, students connect difficult math and science concepts to real-life applications while developing problem-solving and other essential work-ready skills.

• **Guest Instructors & Mentors from SunPower:** Solar professionals from SunPower visit the classroom to give special presentations and bring to life potential STEM-related careers, particularly in the solar energy sector. For students working on solar projects, SunPower employees volunteer as mentors to provide technical expertise.

• **SunPower® Panel Donation for Classroom Use:** SunPower will donate high-efficiency solar panels and cells for student team projects like solar cell vehicles and the Solar Decathlon.

“Thanks to my experience with the Summer Solar Energy Academy, I’m now a second-year mechanical engineering student. I greatly appreciate the impact SunPower has had on the course of my life.”

Ashley Osborne, SunPower Horizons Program Participant

In the Field

The SunPower Horizons program offers experience, supplying a bridge into the solar industry through hands-on learning and learning in the field.

• **Summer Solar Energy Academy (Community College Students):** This intensive, weeklong, work-based learning experience places students on business teams to develop and present a real-world residential solar proposal. Students acquire and hone a range of work-ready skills, while also getting a first-hand look at careers in marketing, project management, engineering and finance.

• **Internships:** Rising seniors can apply for summer internships available in SunPower offices. Positions are available in engineering, project development, construction, marketing, legal and finance departments, to name a few.

• **Field Trips to Solar Sites & SunPower Offices:** SunPower arranges visits to various SunPower solar projects so students can see solar energy at work in their own community. SunPower also opens its offices so students can experience a real work environment and see the many different careers available in the solar energy sector.

• **Service Learning:** SunPower offers service learning opportunities connected to two important initiatives:
  - **We Share Solar:** Student volunteers work with high school students to help build portable Solar Suitcases. Students learn about stand-alone, solar-powered energy technology while they build these reliable sources of electricity for lighting and small device charging.
  - **GRID Alternatives:** Students train in solar installation and help bring the benefits of solar energy to underserved communities.

About SunPower

SunPower designs, manufactures and delivers the most efficient,¹ most reliable² solar panels and systems available today.

To learn more about our educational programs, visit us.sunpower.com/horizons or email horizons@sunpower.com.


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