How often do you take for granted things like a working sink, turning on a light to read at night, or the roof that’s likely over your head at this moment? This sector creates the physical places people live, work and enjoy—from the four walls of a building to the wiring and power that make it possible to offer free wifi. People in this industry work as civil engineers, electrical technicians, solar photovoltaic installers and construction craftspeople.

How do I start my career?

Do some research

• Use Career Coach at workforce.org/careercoach to explore which occupations align with your interests, see a behind-the-scenes peek at what a career looks like and discover local companies.

• Plan for a career in clean energy by exploring the Department of Energy’s website, energy.gov.

Expand your network

• Use social media tools like LinkedIn to network with professionals. Request an informational interview to ask them about their career path, education and job responsibilities.

• Attend an event hosted by an industry-related organization like the Building Industry Association of San Diego or Cleantech San Diego.

Get hands-on experience

• Volunteer with organizations like Habitat for Humanity to try on the construction field.

• Volunteer to install solar panels for low-income families with GRID Alternatives San Diego.

Get training

• There are more paid apprenticeship programs in the building trades than any other type of occupation. Search the website for the California Division of Apprenticeship Standards for a list of opportunities in San Diego.

• Explore certification programs through Clean Tech Institute

• Explore free or low-cost classes and certificate programs at your local adult education provider.

Starting January 1, 2020, solar panels will be required on all single-family homes and multi-family buildings that are three stories tall or smaller.

Subsectors

• Power generation & distribution

• Construction of buildings

• Heavy & civil engineering construction (e.g., bridges, roads, pipelines)

• Waste management & remediation

• Environmental consulting

Learn more at workforce.org/mynextmove
What can I do?

sample occupations

Educational levels are typical for each occupation, but various employers may have slightly higher or lower minimum requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Employed 2018</th>
<th>Median hourly pay</th>
<th>Typical entry-level education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Engineers</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>$46</td>
<td>Master's or professional degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers</td>
<td>658</td>
<td>$43</td>
<td>Doctorate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Engineers</td>
<td>3,838</td>
<td>$39</td>
<td>Bachelor's degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction Managers</td>
<td>4,990</td>
<td>$37</td>
<td>Associate degree or certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers</td>
<td>6,170</td>
<td>$35</td>
<td>Associate degree or certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structural Iron and Steel Workers</td>
<td>1,201</td>
<td>$32</td>
<td>Doctorate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plasterers and Stucco Masons</td>
<td>825</td>
<td>$26</td>
<td>High school diploma or less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters</td>
<td>5,002</td>
<td>$24</td>
<td>Doctorate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Number employed this industry group

Common in this and other sectors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Employed 2018</th>
<th>Median hourly pay</th>
<th>Typical entry-level education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer and Information Systems Managers</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>$69</td>
<td>Master's or professional degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical Engineers</td>
<td>958</td>
<td>$49</td>
<td>Doctorate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban and Regional Planners</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>$39</td>
<td>Associate degree or certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management Analysts</td>
<td>634</td>
<td>$37</td>
<td>Doctorate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost Estimators</td>
<td>1,997</td>
<td>$31</td>
<td>Doctorate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricians</td>
<td>6,743</td>
<td>$28</td>
<td>Doctorate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks</td>
<td>1,925</td>
<td>$21</td>
<td>Bachelor's degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretaries and Administrative Assistants</td>
<td>2,513</td>
<td>$19</td>
<td>Bachelor's degree</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where can I work?

sample employers

Blue Planet Drains and Plumbing
ESTABLISHED: 2004
Uses energy-conserving technologies to provide drain cleaning, leak detection, slab leaks and sewer cleaning services
1–50 employees

McCarthy Construction
ESTABLISHED: 1864
Designs and constructs projects such as educational buildings, labs, government offices and health care facilities
51–200

Waste Management
ESTABLISHED: 1968
Comprehensive waste and environmental services company
1–50

AAA Companies
ESTABLISHED: 1995
Full-service facility maintenance, repair and construction firm that services multifamily homes, health care facilities and retail store fronts
1–50

California Sheet Metal Works Inc.
ESTABLISHED: 1908
An union architectural metal company that makes and installs metal architectural features such as building facades, decorative exteriors and custom railing
1–50

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Rev. 2019.01