



Solar and the Boise Valley: A Perfect Match

Long known for its high-tech industries, the Boise Valley is the perfect place for the solar industry. With its skilled workforce, competitive cost of doing business, inexpensive hydro power, and Idaho incentives and tax credits, the Boise Valley is a prime location for the burgeoning solar industry. With over 300 days of sunshine annually, it's an ideal spot for solar product testing. And the Boise Valley is located in proximity to growing markets for solar energy on the West Coast.

Why the Boise Valley?

Workforce – With a total workforce of nearly 300,000 and an average age of 33.1 years, the Boise Valley has a ready supply of college-educated, tech savvy workers, many who have experience in the semiconductor industry. The leap from semiconductor to solar manufacturing is a natural, and the workers in the Boise Valley are poised to make that transition. With recent layoffs at Micron Technology and Hewlett-Packard, the Boise Valley has approximately 1,600 semiconductor-trained workers eager and ready to make the transition to the solar industry.

Competitive wages – Occupational wages for typical job classifications for the solar industry are competitive.

Occupational Wages for Typical Job Classifications for Solar Industry*

	Boise-Nampa ID	Clark County WA	Portland OR	Phoenix AZ	Albuquerque NM	Los Angeles CA	Austin TX	Albany NY
Electrical Engineer	\$35.16	\$34.92	\$37.07	\$34.61	\$40.80	\$38.15	\$34.56	\$36.86
Mechanical Engineer	33.55	38.52	37.88	37.06	38.00	40.17	44.31	39.86
Electronic Eqpt. Assemblers	12.55	12.90	13.39	13.47	11.38	11.95	13.23	17.50
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters	13.30	16.37	15.53	14.45	19.14	14.74	15.97	16.66
Semiconductor Processors	13.34	14.06	15.85	17.73	16.73	19.44	18.15	15.79

Cost of doing business – Idaho is ranked among the top 10 states in the U.S. in terms of overall costs of doing business. In the Boise Valley, utility costs are highly competitive and provide a distinct advantage for the solar industry. Monthly utility costs as compared to other areas of the country are favorable:

Comparative Monthly Utility Costs for Solar Manufacturing Operations:**

	Boise-Nampa ID†	Clark County WA	Hillsboro OR	Portland OR	Phoenix AZ	Albuquerque NM	Camarillo CA	Austin TX	Albany County NY
Power	\$336,120.49	\$422,119.20	510,782.38	\$510,782.38	\$480,079.74	\$388,213.63	\$561,427.09	\$570,817.50	\$635,767.22
Water	5,566.80	10,242.92	10,126.49	15,127.01	21,091.37	12,593.86	11,421.44	23,863.55	40,338.68
Sewer	5,344.20	19,134.09	10,845.37	47,690.73	17,333.97	8,561.57	16,362.35	36,915.90	40,338.68
Total	\$347,031.49	451,496.21	531,654.24	573,600.12	518,505.08	409,369.06	589,210.88	631,596.95	713,444.58

Idaho Incentives/Tax Credits – For a solar panel manufacturer, Idaho can offer the following attractive incentives packages or tax credits:

Idaho Business Advantage is available for businesses making a minimum \$500,000 investment in new plant and facilities and creating at least 10 new jobs paying above \$40,000 a year plus benefits. This includes –

- 3.75% Investment Tax Credit up to \$750,000 on qualifying personal property (machinery/equipment) to offset Corporate Income Tax
- New Jobs Tax Credit graduated scale \$1,000 to

\$3,000 per job with benefits to offset Corporate Income Tax

- Real Property Improvement Tax Credit at 2.5% of investment (land/building) to offset Corporate Income Tax
- 25% rebate of sales tax paid on construction materials for new plant
- Growth Incentive enables a company to petition local county commissioners to grant an exemption on all or part of the new investment value from property taxes for a determined period of time.



Workforce Development Training Funds provide up to \$2,000 per new job created, paid directly to the company.

Idaho Power Industrial Efficiency Incentive is a cash incentive for energy-efficient design.

TIF (Tax Increment Financing) can be used in communities that have Urban Renewal Districts, and the money can be used to fund project costs such as utility construction, land costs, pad and compaction, footings, foundations and other improvements.

IRB (Industrial Revenue Bonds) are a means of financing the construction, enlargement or equipping of manufacturing plants.

For more information contact –

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* Sources: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, WA Employment Security Department, Oregon Employment Department and Idaho Department of Labor 2008

** Facility Requirements: 12,000 kW Demand; 8,234,400 kWh/month; 94% Load Factor, 95% Power Factor; 200,000 gallons/day Water; 192,000 Gallons/day Sewer, 24 hours/day operation.

† Boise-Nampa MSA - Power is at today's rate (\$0.0408), Water is per monthly cost from City of Nampa (\$92.78 per 100,000 gallons) and Sewer is from City of Nampa (\$178.14 for 192,000 gallons.)