



choosing a career

Resource

Work Voices #10

Marjan Javanmard – Building Auditor

It is helpful to view one segment at a time

Marjan Javanmard came to the US from Iran 12 years ago and now works in energy conservation for Solar City as a building auditor. She attended San Mateo Adult School for ESL classes and trained at [Skyline College on the HERO Program](#) (Home Energy Retrofit Occupations) – a training program in building systems for residential energy efficiency.

Marjan describes the training course at [Skyline College](#) which offers “an overview of residential building science. Foundational principles in general residential construction and energy aspects of building envelopes, mechanical systems, appliances, water heating, lighting and more.” She recommends it for anyone with a basic knowledge of construction and a real interest in sustainability and conserving energy.

Marjan talks of the growing number of jobs in this area of green industry which, with government support, offers retrofit solutions to promote energy conservation. She stresses the importance of sustainable applications for future of the built environment.

Preview activities/Introductory questions

Warm up questions

How would you apply the term “green” to your everyday life?

Are there ways you could be greener in your life?

What does energy efficiency mean?

What is the connection to sustainability?

Vocabulary

Insulation, energy efficiency, conserve, commercial, renewable energy, solar, combustion gas, emissions, retrofit, audit.

Focus questions

- Where was Marjan trained?
- What did her training involve?
- Describe her work and what she is trying to do?
- Why does she feel her work is important?
- Why does Marjan think the number of jobs in this area will grow?

Discuss responses.

Post viewing

Research

a Training courses

- Investigate the different fields for employment in energy conservation.
- Find training programs in home efficiency and retrofitting.
- What information would you need about each program in order to apply for it?

b Job opportunities

- Look for job opportunities in energy conservation.
- List the range of job options you could pursue – solar energy, energy efficiency whether in installation, policy or planning etc.

Summarize findings for a and b in two paragraphs to share and discuss with the class

Reflection

- Why does Marjan recommend this work?
- What challenges does she describe?
- What kind of personal qualities would work well for this job?
- What personal qualities does she bring?

Write a short reflection paragraph in response to these questions

Contact assignment

Interview someone who works in an area of green technology that interests you.
Record the interview if possible.

Post it to your class blog – if you have one.

Further resources

- Energy Systems Technology Management (ESTM) Department at [Skyline College](#)
- Green and Sustainable Business Programs at [City College of San Francisco](#)
- Alternative Energy Program information at [Diablo Valley College](#)
- KQED Education ESL [Eco-Literacy Resources](#)