Call for Applications

Re-Skilling Lab:

Solar Photovoltaic Installer entrepreneurial training

In-person training at
Nkangala TVET College, Witbank Campus

20-24th and 27-28th November 2023

OVERVIEW

RES4Africa Foundation is a non-profit organisation representing international big players operating in the renewable energy space. RES4Africa aims to support Africa's just energy transition and has been active in South Africa since 2019. Together with local partners and government entities, RES4Africa established the Re-skilling Lab, a capacity-building initiative dedicated to offering renewable energy-related training to local youth and energy sector workers in Mpumalanga region that are interested in preparing themselves for a possible career in the sector.

RES4Africa has partnered with Nkangala TVET College to offer formally accredited renewable energy training at the College's Campus in Witbank. From 20th November, **RES4Africa and Nkangala TVET College are offering an intensive in-person entrepreneurial training targeting qualified and unqualified Electricians and Electrical Technicians to support them in finding and creating work opportunities in PV rooftop solar installation.**

The training will consist of the South African Photovoltaic Industry Association's (SAPVIA) Rooftop Solar course, as well as modules for technical and soft skills related to establishing and growing businesses in the renewable energy space. The SAPVIA Rooftop Solar course will be taught by TVET lecturers (capacitated to deliver these modules). The soft skills modules will be contributed by energy industry practitioners and other local RES4Africa partners.

The training will be **offered to 30 candidates, free of charge**. Applicants must meet the minimum entry requirements to be eligible.

Additionally, **unqualified electricians with proven work experience in the electrical field** will be offered the opportunity to also go through the process of **artisan recognition of prior learning (ARPL)** at Nkangala TVET College to **become formally certified Electricians (Construction)**.

The training would enable participants to:

- Acquire relevant skills for **starting a business in the solar PV sector**.
- Complete the SAPVIA Solar PV course and **acquire industry-accredited relevant skills for working in the rooftop solar sector**.
- Apply for the GreenCard Assessment to **become a SAPVIA-recognised PV Rooftop Installer**.

- For unqualified electrician candidates applying for artisan recognition of prior learning, **obtain the knowledge necessary to take a trade test to become a qualified Electrician (Construction)**.

COURSE CONTENT

The course will be based on the 5-day SAPVIA PV Rooftop Installer course, covering the following modules:

- Module 1. Basic principles of electricity
- Module 2. Introduction to solar photovoltaics
- Module 3. Planning, design, and system integration of PV Solar
- Module 4. Mounting and installing a PV Rooftop System
- Module 5. Commissioning / maintenance of PV Systems

This will be complemented by an additional 2 days focusing on entrepreneurial soft skills to enable participants to start a small business in the solar rooftop sector. These modules will be contributed by relevant energy industry practitioners and other local RES4Africa partners.

LOCATION

The training will take place in-person at the **Nkangala Top of The World Training Centre** located at 3 Van der Byl Street, Witbank, Emalahleni, 1035, South Africa.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The course is open to a maximum of 30 participants.

Applicants must meet the following **minimum requirements to access the training**:

- Be a resident of Nkangala District Municipality.
- Have a minimum NQF 2 (Grade 10) equivalent;
- Have worked in an Electrical Construction environment; and
- Have a working knowledge of electricity with specific exposure to:
    - House wiring,
    - Conduits, trunking & cabling,
    - Cable terminations,
    - DB Boards (Earth Leakages and Breakers).

CERTIFICATION

Upon successful completion of the course, participants will be awarded an attendance certificate.

Candidates can then proceed to apply for the SAPVIA GreenCard Assessment to become SAPVIA-certified PV Installers able to issue GreenCards. The 2-day GreenCard Assessment includes a theoretical as well as a practical assessment where candidates are required to mount PV installations on a simulated roof environment. The purpose of this assessment is to ascertain competency of installers and vet their abilities in order to gain access to the PV GreenCard quality programme. For more information on the GreenCard, please visit https://pvgreencard.co.za.

RES4Africa will sponsor the costs of the GreenCard Assessment for the three best performers of the Re-Skilling Lab: Solar Photovoltaic Installer entrepreneurial training.

ARTISAN RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

Unqualified electricians applying to this call will be offered the additional opportunity to also access Artisan Recognition of Prior Learning (ARPL) – Electrician (Construction) at Nkangala TVET College, free of charge. ARPL is a process that aims to bridge the gap between participants' existing relevant work experience, skills, and knowledge and what is required to qualify and successfully take a trade test and become certified Electricians (Construction). Please click here for additional information on ARPL.

In addition to becoming certified through the ARPL process, successful candidates will also participate in the extended Rooftop Solar Entrepreneurship training. This will ensure their eligibility to qualify towards taking the SAPVIA Green Card Assessment and also become an industry-accredited PV Rooftop Installer.

For applicants interested in ARPL, additional information will be provided following the close of the Call for Applications.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Applicants must email their completed Application Form and CV (no more than 3 pages) to southafrica@renew-africa.org copying iarina.ciceu@res4africa, marcoatilio.nieri@res4africa.org and Oosthuizen.E@nkangalafet.edu.za. The Application form can be downloaded here. Alternatively, applicants can fill in the online **Application Form**.

The due date for applications is the 3rd of November 2023. Incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

All applications will be evaluated by RES4Africa and Nkangala TVET College. The selected candidates will receive a confirmation email and will be requested to confirm their attendance.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

The course and any training materials will be offered free of charge to a maximum of 30 participants, subject to meeting the entry requirements listed above.

Participants will be expected to cover their transport, meals, and accommodation during the training period independently.

ORGANIZERS AND PARTNERS

The course is jointly organized by Renewable Energy Solutions for Africa Foundation (RES4Africa) and Nkangala TVET College and other regional and international partners. For further information and queries, please get in touch with the organizing team at southafrica@renew-africa.org.