



2000's and the Rise of Renewable Energy

During the 2000's, renewable energy such as solar, wind and electric vehicles began to rise in popularity for both commercial and residential use. In 2008, the U.S. Department of Energy declared the "net-zero" revolution. NECA/IBEW Local 48 and the training center saw great opportunities for the electrical industry.

Leading the charge in making an effort to construct cost-efficient buildings that produce all their own energy were LEED certified structures. These energy-saving building designs require electricians with special knowledge and skills to install the revolutionary heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment, energy-efficient lighting and appliances.

Installing this new technology could be as complex as requiring the complete reworking of structural wiring in buildings or as simple as quick wiring of a home energy management system. As leaders in new practices and technology, NECA/IBEW Local 48 made sure it's members had the knowledge and skills to work on everything from the small residential jobs to the large commercial complexes. The NECA/IBEW Electrical Training Center has made it a point to consistently offer the most up to date classes on renewable energy and other emerging technologies. Both new apprentices and seasoned electricians are able to get the training they need for working on renewable energy projects.

Many of NECA/IBEW Local 48 members have been involved in Portland's history of sustainable practices. Christenson Electric helped install the EV charging stations at the World Trade Center and others around town. Hughes Electrical worked on Portland State University's "Electric Avenue", Frahler Electric helped the East County Courthouse meet LEED Gold Certification standards, O'Neill Electric has installed photovoltaic systems in Portland fire stations – these are just a few examples from a very expansive list.

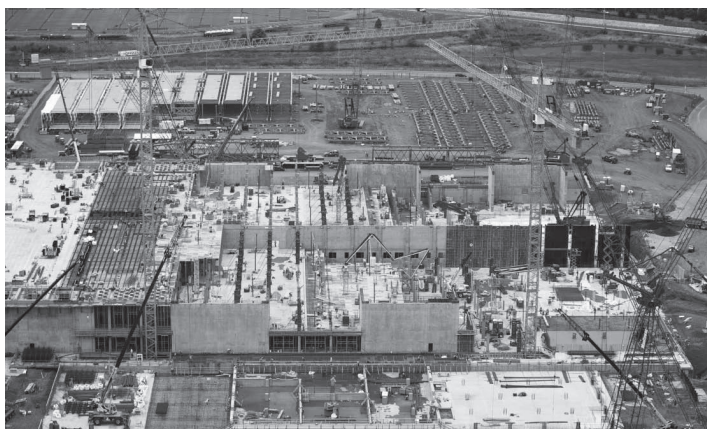
As more and more people turn to renewable energy, NECA/IBEW Local 48 members will continue to help make Northwest Oregon and Southwest Washington's future greener.

In October, 2012, Oregon wind farms hit a new generation record of 4,289 megawatts exceeding the output of the federal hydroelectric system — the first time that wind energy surpassed water energy in the region.

Both Christenson and Rosendin Electric had big parts in installing this wind generation. The future is bright again for wind and solar now that Oregon has increased its' RPS (Renewable Portfolio Standard) to 50%. We are looking at potentially 45 billion dollars or more of work that will be installed in the region in the next 5 years.



IBEW Local 48's Chevy Volt and charging station.



Construction of Intel's DX1 fabrication facility in Hillsboro, OR.



Cherry City Electric on the job.



NECA/IBEW Local 48 and Diversity

The new millennium kicked off with Keith Edwards being elected the Business Manager of IBEW Local 48. An IBEW member since age 20, he was the first African American to lead an IBEW inside union local in the nation.

Three years later, Keith would win an appointment to the position of Ninth District IBEW International Representative.

In 2009 another one of NECA/IBEW Local 48's members was recognized. The Daily Journal of Commerce gave NECA contractor O'Neill Electric its first ever Minority Contractor Award. The newspaper also recognized O'Neill Electric for "Most Contracts Awards" in the \$500,000 - \$2 Million range, and its "People's Choice" Award. Maurice Rahming, a journeyman electrician and his wife Ali O'Neill, started O'Neill Electric in 1998.

As they've demonstrated in the past, NECA/IBEW Local 48 has a long history of diversity. Throughout the years, NECA/IBEW Local 48 has made it a priority to creating a diverse workforce and leadership teams. Bridget Quinn, the training center's Workforce Development Coordinator, helps the partnership achieve that goal.

A graduate of the NECA/IBEW electrical apprentice program, and a holder of a General Journey Level Electrical license herself, Bridget counsels women and minority candidates, providing leadership and assistance for both work and school. Bridget also provides training to apprentices as they enter the industry, creating a more accepting environment to all candidates.

In 2014, Bridget was recognized for her outreach work, including her implementation of a variety of recruitment methods, tool training workshops and weeklong intro to construction classes at NIETC that increased women and minority enrollments, with the Daily Journal of Commerce's Women of Vision award.

Currently at the training center, there are 601 apprentices and thanks to the partnership's outreach, just over 20 percent of the students are minorities and just over 12 percent are women.

As the partnership looks to the future, diversity will remain a vital component of the collective success of the members.



The National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, predecessor of the IBEW, hired Mary Honzik in 1896, making it the first union to have a women organizer on its staff.



In this 1944 photo, an electrical maintenance crew comprised of 29 members of the IBEW Local 48, one-third of them women and minorities, were still smiling even though they had just worked together on the outfitting dock of Oregon Shipbuilding Corp. without a vacation since the summer of 1942.



“Local 48 has been able to achieve great things... It comes from getting along and understanding (that) we are all in the boat together...”

*Keith Edwards, Representative
Ninth District, IBEW International*