

get<sup>into</sup>  
energy

Next Gen Energy Blueprint

**POWER UP YOUR  
CAREER PATH**

# POWER UP YOUR PATH

Get Ready for an Energy Career

starting **NOW**

## What's next?

Yeah, we hate that question too. How often do you hear, “What do you want to do after graduation?” or “What kind of job are you interested in?” or worst of all, “What do you want to do with the rest of your life?” For some, the answer’s obvious. But for most, it’s like trying to guess the end of a movie you haven’t even seen.

Here’s the thing: you don’t need to have it all figured out. But you can start exploring industries that give you exciting options and the chance to make a real impact.

## Let’s talk energy.

The energy industry literally powers everything around you, keeping the lights on, gas flowing, and your phone buzzing. Behind all that is a fast-moving field that needs builders, problem solvers, creatives, data lovers, people people, and everything in between. This industry welcomes everyone—from GEDs to PhDs. So pick your path. Start your energy journey right after high school; take a college journey in two years or four; or go the long-haul with even more education. The entry point is yours.

**Even better?** When you get into energy, you get to make a meaningful difference and be part of something

bigger. Employees in the energy industry are creating a more sustainable future, developing cleaner technologies, and leading with the future in mind. If you’re looking for a career that powers communities and powers impact, the energy industry allows you to do both. You won’t just earn a paycheck—you’ll have a purpose.

Still unsure about your future? Use this guide as your jumping-off point. Inside, you’ll find tips, tools, and ideas to plug into the energy industry and find a job that’s anything but boring. Your future doesn’t have to be figured out today, but exploring energy careers? That’s a smart move, no matter where you’re headed. Let’s get started!

Looking for opportunities in the skilled trades?

**START  
HERE**

Interested in going to college?

**FLIP TO  
PAGE 12**

## Guide for the **SKILLED TRADES**



## Build It, Power It, Maintain It: Your Skills **Belong in Energy**

College isn’t the only path, and it’s not the right one for everyone. Careers in the skilled trades allow you to solve real problems, build real things, and make real money—without sitting behind a desk all day. And the great news? Skilled careers in energy, construction, and manufacturing like electricians, lineworkers, laborers, machinists, technicians, and welders are in high demand, which means roles like these let you start earning fast. **Plus, the energy industry is evolving quickly with tons of room to grow.**

Want a solid career that’s future-proof? **THIS IS IT.**

# Are you **MORE?**

<b>M</b>	otivated to get your future figured out;
<b>O</b>	ptimistic about starting your career;
<b>R</b>	eady to go after high-impact work; and
<b>E</b>	xcited to jump into the skilled trades after high school?

If that's you,

**WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK.**

## 1. Build a Class Schedule That Works for the Trades



If you're eyeing a future in the skilled trades, use high school to build a strong foundation. While skilled trade roles are hands-on, it's important to have a good grasp on the basics to succeed in energy. From wiring and blueprints to tools, safety, and smart tech, learning the skills can start in high school. Consider relevant career technical education (CTE) courses to move you forward, depending on where you want your path to take you.

### Core Classes:

- Math *(yep, they matter)*
- Physics
- Environmental Science
- Chemistry
- English & Communications
- **BONUS!** Energy Industry Fundamentals 2.0: An intro course that breaks down what energy is, how it works, and what careers are out there

### Sample CTE Courses to Consider

many types of pathways to choose

- Electronics or Electrical Technology
- Automotive Technology
- Manufacturing Technologies
- Computer Science or Programming
- Construction Tech or Building Trades
- Energy & Power Technology
- Computer-Aided Design (CAD)
- Welding

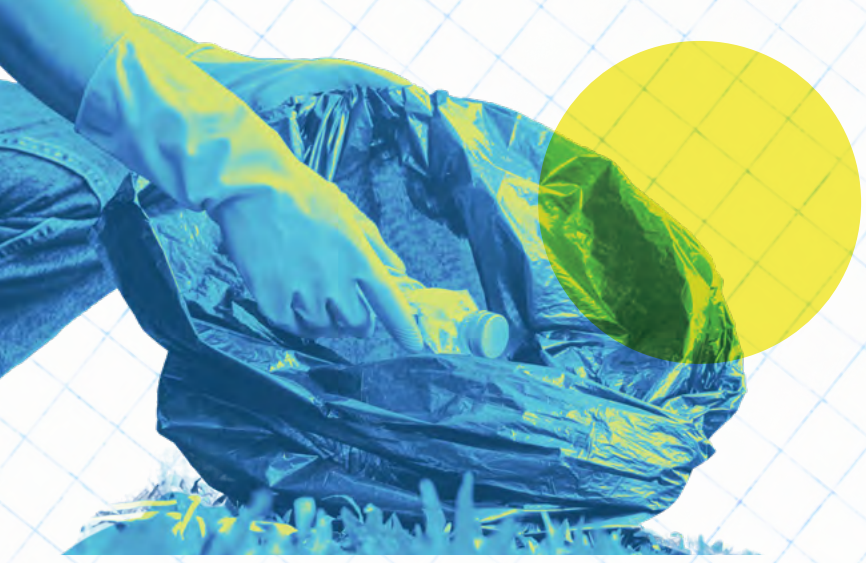
## 2. Add Extracurriculars

Getting involved outside the classroom shows employers you're motivated, curious, and interested in building real-world skills.

### Pump up your resumé by getting involved in programs like:

- **Robotics, Skills USA and FAA Clubs:** Involvement in clubs like Robotics, SkillsUSA, or FAA can provide hands-on experience and industry exposure.
- **Environmental Clubs:** Passionate about sustainability? Join or volunteer with groups focused on protecting the planet.
- **Business Clubs:** Sharpen your leadership skills and get career-ready in business clubs, like DECA, or student government.
- **Athletics:** Teamwork, time management, and hustle always look good on a resumé.





### 3. Don't Forget Work and Volunteer Experience



Hands-on work or volunteer experience of any kind shows you're motivated and ready to learn while helping build your resumé, skills, and network.

Look for opportunities like school set builds, community repair and clean up events, or programs like Habitat for Humanity for access to similar trade roles relevant to energy or construction.

Show up, ask questions, and prove you're reliable.

Future employers will notice.

### 4. Add Some "Wow" Factors to Your Resumé

WOW



- Learn basic hand and power tool safety.
- Complete your Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA 10) safety training.
- Get hands-on with electronics or energy systems.
- Earn your driver's license. If you are at least 18 years old, consider a commercial driver's license (CDL). It's a big plus for trade roles.



### 5. Navigate Potential Roadblocks



As you plan for your future, keep in mind that some things can hold you back from landing a great job. Many employers require drug testing, and testing positive—even where some substances are legal—can cost you the opportunity. A criminal record may also limit access to high-paying jobs in the industry.

(bottom line)

Use your time in high school to lead you to the right energy entry point. Your resumé doesn't need the highest GPA or the greatest number of clubs or awards. It just has to show effort and choices that set you up for success.

### 6. Explore Post-High School Pathways

There's more than one way to start your career in the skilled trades. Here are a few common and effective routes that combine education, hands-on training, and certifications.



#### ROUTE 1

##### Apprenticeship Readiness or Pre-Apprenticeship Programs.

These programs help you build the basic skills and knowledge that you will need to choose a trade, get into an apprenticeship, and crush it.

##### PRO HACK

Check out TradesFutures.org to find free programs near you.

#### ROUTE 2

##### Apprenticeships.

The classic earn-while-you-learn model. You get paid, get trained, and after a few years, you're a journey level worker!

#### ROUTE 3

##### Technical or Trade School.

Short-term programs (6-24 months) that teach you specific skills, like HVAC or electrical, and get you job-ready or set you up for an apprenticeship. Certifications from technical or trade schools signal mastery and program completion.

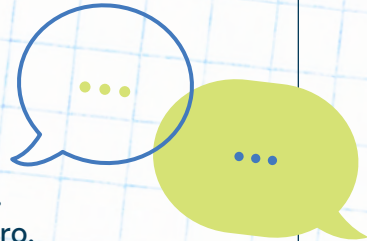
#### ROUTE 4

##### Community Colleges.

Earn a certificate or associate degree while combining general education with hands-on technical training.

## 7. Build Skills to Crush It in the Real World

Even if you're not 100% sure what you want to be yet, these skills work everywhere!

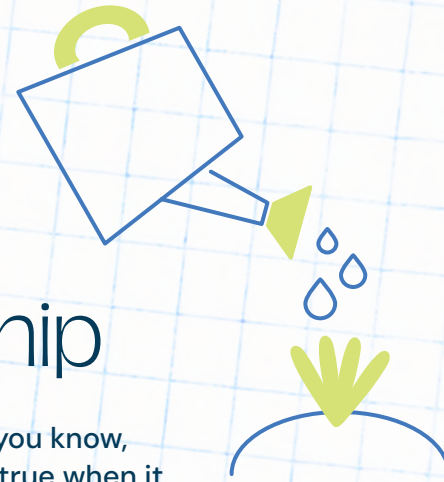


- **Clear Communication.** Speak and write like a pro. No more emails that sound like a text to your bestie.
- **Time Management.** Deadlines are real. Plan ahead.
- **Teamwork.** Show up, listen, and pull your weight. No ghosting!
- **Problem-Solving.** Things will go wrong. The real flex? Figuring stuff out.
- **Positive Attitude.** Be on time, stay respectful, own your mistakes.

"I'll figure it out"

~~"That's not my job."~~

## 8. Embrace Networking and Mentorship



You've heard it before, "it's not what you know, it's who you know." This is especially true when it comes to your career because connections can open doors that skills alone might not. Referrals, recommendations, and even casual conversations can lead to hidden opportunities you won't find on job boards.

Plus, networking builds confidence. Learning to tell your story helps people remember you.

### Start here:



01.

Talk to your teachers as they may have connections to local employers.

02.

Ask family, friends, or neighbors in the trades about openings or apprenticeships.

03.

Show up at job fairs, career days, or union info sessions and introduce yourself.

04.

Volunteer on build sites or community repair projects.

05.

Reach out to industry professionals to learn more about hiring trends, job expectations, and career growth paths; you may even find a mentor who helps guide your path.

06.

Follow local trade organizations on social media to stay in the loop.

## 9. Develop a Portfolio

Your portfolio is a powerful way for you to showcase your hands-on experience and readiness for real-world work. It helps you stand out when applying for apprenticeships, potential scholarships, or a job interview by highlighting completed projects, tools used, and certifications earned—giving you a clear advantage.



# 10. Seek Out Scholarships and Financial Aid

Skilled trade scholarships are out there, offering **FREE** money for the taking. You just have to do a little digging. Tons of scholarships go unclaimed every year, so make it your mission to find them.



## Application Hot Tips:

<b>01.</b>	<b>Start early.</b>
<b>02.</b>	<b>Apply often.</b>
<b>03.</b>	<b>Share relevant projects, internships, or volunteer work.</b>

## Where to Look:

- **Community colleges and trade schools**
- **Your high school guidance office** (local scholarships!)
- **Industry organizations**
- **State and local workforce programs.** Check out your state's Department of Labor or Workforce Development website for training/education funds across community colleges and technical schools.
- **Scholarship search sites.** Set up alerts for scholarships with key words like "vocational" or "skilled trades."

# PLUG INTO YOUR FUTURE:

Trades + Energy =  
A Career That Pays

You don't need to have it all figured out right now, but you do need to start somewhere. And by reading this blueprint? That's step one. A career in the skilled trades is not just a job; it's a future built on purpose, stability, pride, and a paycheck that supports your goals. The energy industry needs people who are ready to learn, show up, and do the work that matters.

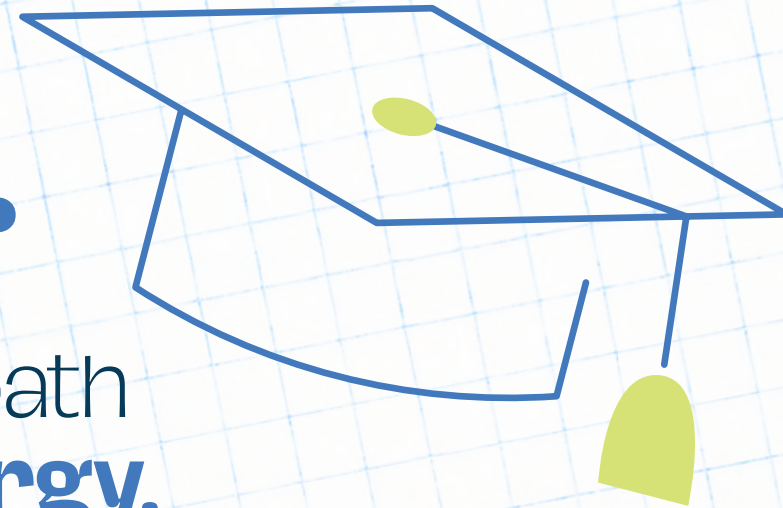
So, what's next? Start **exploring**. Start **building**. Start **believing that you can do this**—because you can.

Visit [GetIntoEnergy.org](http://GetIntoEnergy.org) to find your path.



# Headed to **COLLEGE?**

Explore where that path may take you **in energy.**



## **Fuel Your Future:** Why Energy is the Career You Didn't See Coming

Think energy is all power lines and hard hats? **Think again.** Behind every light switch, phone charger, and TikTok video is a team of engineers, coders, designers, marketers, business minds, and environmental experts.

In energy, you don't just work—you make an impact. You solve real problems, help shape how the world runs, and join teams that innovate every day.

**And the best part?** There's room for you, whether you're into science, tech, business, design, marketing, communications, legal, or the environment. High pay, global opportunities, and a front-row seat to the biggest transformation of our time?

Yes, please!

# **ARE YOU IN?**

We're here to help get you started.

# 1. Build Your Class Schedule for an Energy-Powered Future



If you're into math and science, you're already on track for roles in energy like engineering, cyber data, and energy ops. If that's not your style, no stress. The energy industry also needs creative minds in marketing, PR, legal, policy, government affairs, real estate, and more.

## **Here's a quick look at classes that can help get you there:**

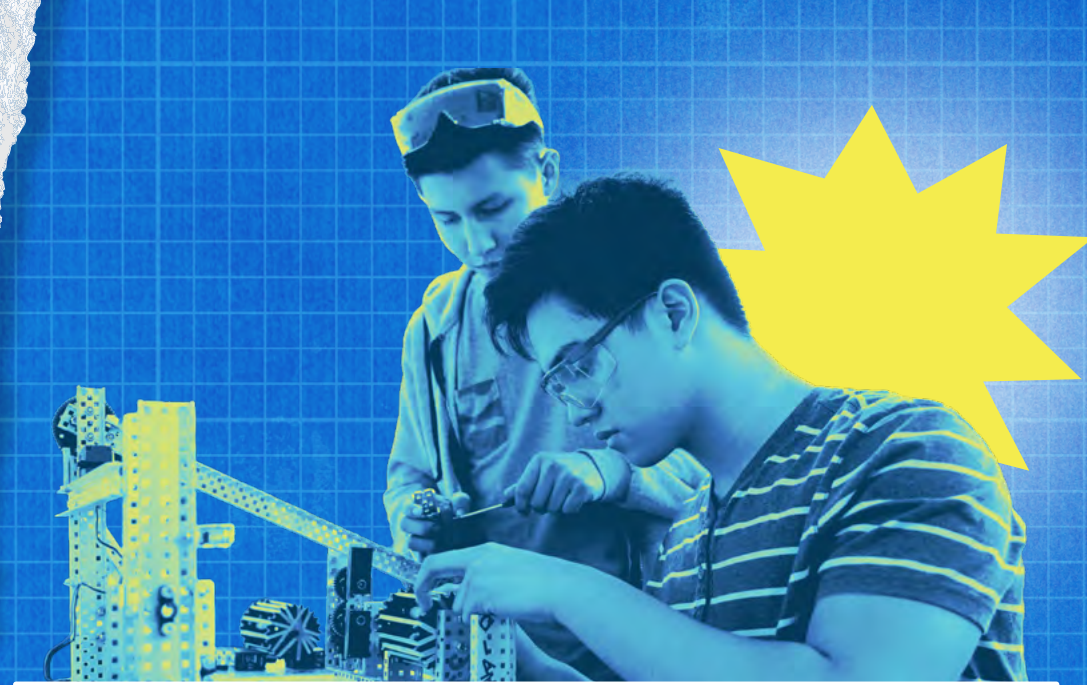
- Math
- Science
- Technology & Computer Science
- English & Communications
- Social Studies
- Career Technical Education (CTE) Pathways related to energy, engineering, tech, natural sciences
- **BONUS!** Energy Industry Fundamentals 2.0: An intro course that breaks down what energy is, how it works, and what careers are out there

## 2. Add Extracurriculars

Getting involved outside the classroom shows energy employers you're motivated, curious, and interested in building real-world skills.

### Pump up your resumé by getting involved in programs like:

- **STEM Clubs:** Join or create clubs focused on science, technology, engineering, and math, like SkillsUSA and FAA. Compete, collaborate, and show leadership.
- **Environmental Clubs:** Passionate about sustainability? Join or volunteer with groups focused on protecting the planet.
- **Business Clubs:** Sharpen your leadership skills and get career-ready in business clubs, like DECA, or student government.
- **Athletics:** Teamwork, time management, and hustle always look good on a resumé.



## 3. Don't Forget Work and Volunteer Experience



Whether it's a summer job, internship, or volunteer opportunity, any hands-on experience shows employers you are driven, using your time productively and with purpose.

Use school breaks to try things out. It's the perfect time to job shadow, intern, or learn more about local energy companies or related organizations in your community. Learn what you like and what you don't.

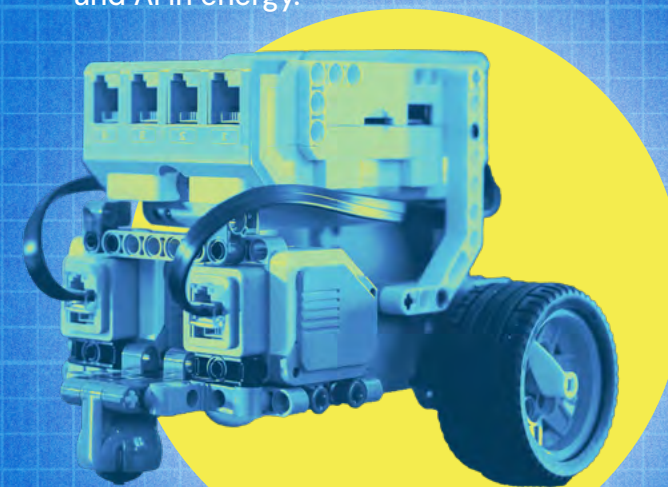
**PRO HACK**

Search "internships" at [GetIntoEnergyJobs](https://www.getintoenergyjobs.com).

## 4. Add Some "Wow" Factors to Your Resumé



- Learn coding basics (Python, C++).
- Use tools like CAD and data analysis software.
- Get hands-on with electronics, mechanics, or energy systems.
- Participate in STEM competitions or energy-related hackathons.
- Join sustainability or clean energy projects.
- Stay updated on new tech and trends, such as smart grids, battery storage, and AI in energy.



## 5. Navigate Potential Roadblocks



As you plan for your future, keep in mind that some things can hold you back from landing a great job. Many employers require drug testing, and testing positive—even where some substances are legal—can cost you the opportunity. A criminal record may also limit access to high-paying jobs in the industry.

*(bottom line)*

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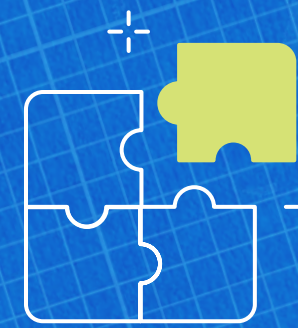
## 6. Explore Post-High School Pathways

What part of energy excites you? No matter your interest, there's a college path that's just right for you. A 2-year degree gets you into the field fast with solid pay and room to grow. A 4-year degree can unlock broader or more advanced roles. Both are valuable, just different paths to success.

- **Technical & Engineering.** Design and build the future of energy.
- **Environmental & Earth Sciences.** Focus on sustainability, climate science, and how we manage natural resources.
- **Energy-Specific Programs.** Dive deep into how energy is generated, stored, and used efficiently.
- **Data, IT, and Cybersecurity.** Use tech to protect, analyze, and optimize the energy systems we rely on.
- **Business, Policy, and Management.** Lead strategy, shape energy policy, and drive innovation.

Whichever route you take, the energy field is brimming with opportunities to make an impact. Stay curious, ask questions, and push forward.

you're on the right track.



## 7. Build Skills to Crush It in the Real World

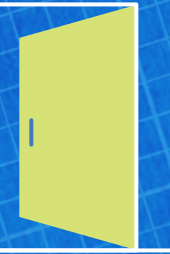
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Plus, networking builds confidence. Learning to tell your story helps people remember you.

### Start here:

**01.**

Join student chapters of energy orgs and clubs.

**02.**

Create a professional LinkedIn profile.

**03.**

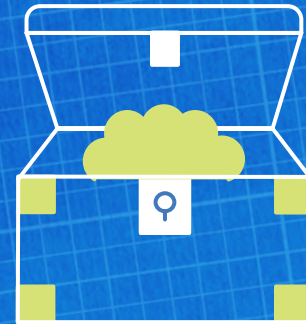
Reach out to professionals; most love to help up-and-coming talent.

(yes, even in high school)



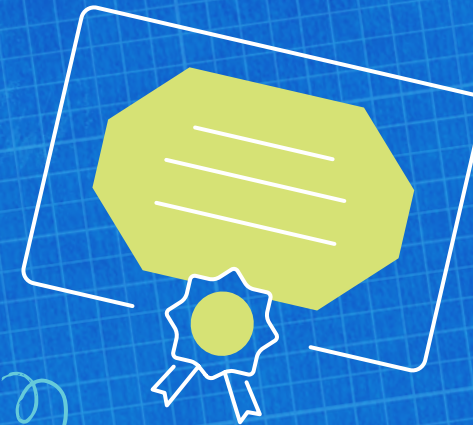
## 9. Develop a Portfolio

Colleges and employers want to see what you can do. Now is the time to showcase your skills and the projects you've worked on! Document your projects, achievements, and skills in a portfolio to stand out. This will be valuable for college applications, potential scholarships, and job interviews.



## 10. Seek Out Scholarships and Financial Aid

Nothing new here, but college is expensive! If you are passionate about energy, there are scholarships out there to help.



### Application Hot Tips:

<b>01.</b>	<b>Start early. Many scholarships have spring deadlines.</b>
<b>02.</b>	<b>Highlight your passion for energy and sustainability.</b>
<b>03.</b>	<b>Share relevant projects, internships, or volunteer work.</b>

### Where to Look:

- **Your high school guidance office** (local scholarships!)
- **Scholarship search sites.** Set up alerts for scholarships with key words like "energy," "sustainability," "engineering," or "climate science."
- **Energy companies and utilities in your area**
- **Colleges with energy programs**
- **Professional energy organizations**

Scholarships and grants are **FREE** money, but you've got to put in the effort to find them.

#### PRO HACK

Don't wait. Start your scholarship hunt by sophomore and junior year.



# Your Future **STARTS WITH ENERGY**

You don't have to know exactly what you want to be yet—but if you want a career that's exciting, meaningful, and built to last, the energy industry is where it's at. This industry is changing fast and needs the next generation to power what's next. You can start now with the classes you take, the clubs you join, the experiences you chase, and the story you tell.

So, what's next? Start **exploring**.

Visit [GetIntoEnergy.org](https://www.getintoenergy.org) to take your first step. You've got this.

get<sup>into</sup>  
energy

Learn more about energy careers at

**GETINTOENERGY.ORG**



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