

About Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration (HVAC) Mechanics and Installers



Employment Outlook

Although this occupation is expected to grow at a slower rate (3.5%) between 2008 and 2018 than the statewide average of 9.1 percent for all occupations, reasonable employment opportunities still exist. An estimated 550 total job openings are projected over the 10-year period, largely due to the need to replace workers who retire or leave the occupation.

Wages

In 2011, hourly wages for HVAC mechanics and installers range from \$12.96 for entry-level workers to \$31.70 near the top of the pay scale. The average hourly wage is \$22.35, which translates to \$46,496 annually for a full-time, year-round position.

Selected Skills

- Apply design specifications to HVAC and refrigeration repair
- Diagnose and correct refrigeration and HVAC malfunctions
- Test mechanical products and equipment after repair or assembly

License Requirements

Depending upon the type of work performed, heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics and installers in Oregon may need to obtain a license. For information about licenses relevant to the occupation, visit cbs.state.or.us/bcd

Learn More About Green Jobs...

QualityInfo.org/Green



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For additional brochures, please contact Lmipubs.emp@state.or.us

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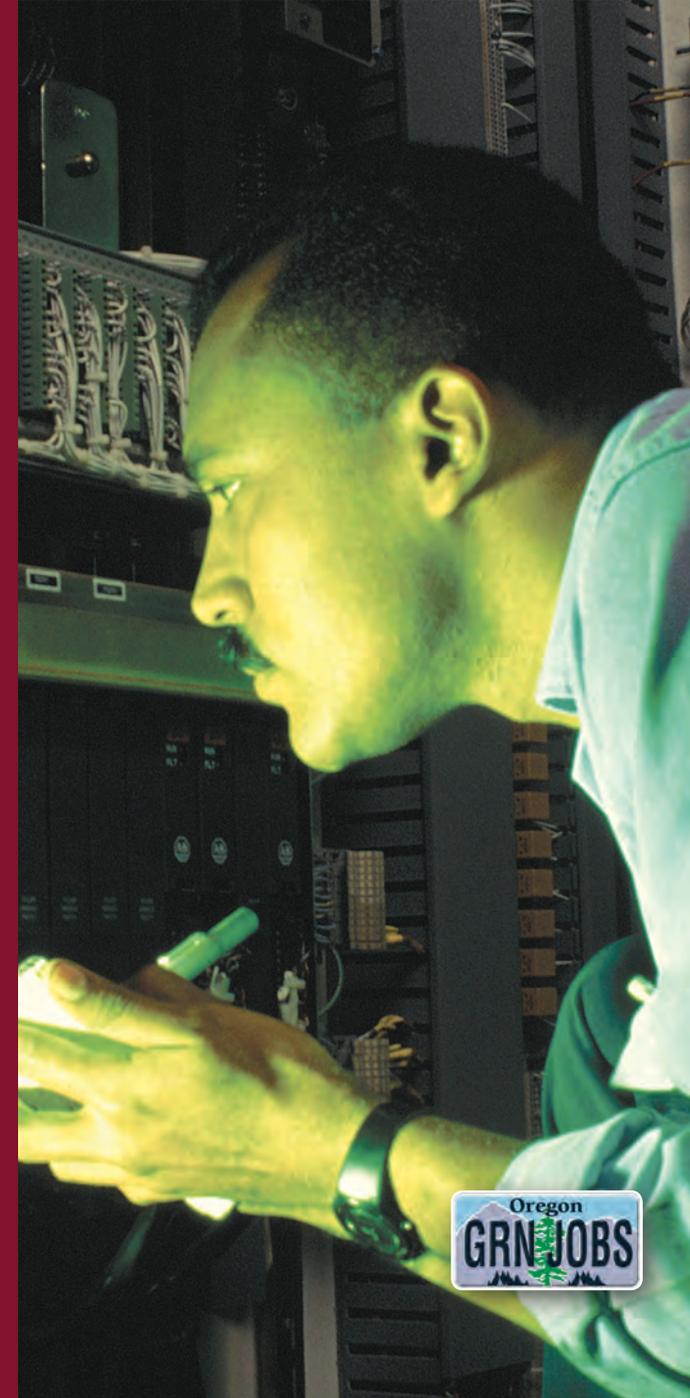
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Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration (HVAC) Mechanics and Installers

GREEN Jobs in Oregon



GREEN JOBS

Heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration (HVAC) mechanics and installers repair or install heating, central air conditioning, or refrigeration systems, including oil burners, hot-air furnaces, and heating stoves.

Not all HVAC mechanics and installers are “green.” Green workers have essential job duties in at least one of five categories included in the definition of a green job. Green jobs work to:

- Increase energy efficiency
- Produce renewable energy
- Prevent, reduce, or mitigate environmental degradation
- Clean up and restore the natural environment
- Educate, consult, and provide other services that support the above

GREEN JOBS

Day in the Life of a Heating and Cooling System Mechanic: *Brett Irion*

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy the challenge. I often encounter situations where I have to use all my skills. There are a lot of mental tasks involved in trying to diagnose and troubleshoot problems. You learn to apply all your tools, both the mental and the physical ones.

What is the most challenging part of your job?

The most challenging part of my job is the electric control work. Every piece of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment is powered by electricity. All boilers, heating units, air conditioning and refrigeration units, and exhaust fans have electric controls.

Does your job help benefit the environment?

Yes, definitely. Years ago, it was discovered that the ozone layer was being depleted by refrigerants and other chemicals. Authorities decided on new guidelines for handling refrigerants. Now you must be certified to remove and handle refrigerants. When we remove, recover, store, and dispose of refrigerants, it is done using strict environmental safety standards.

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Education and Training

Workers must have long-term on-the-job training to gain the necessary skills for this occupation. However, those with additional training beyond high school have a competitive advantage in this labor market.

Some training programs in Oregon geared toward this occupation include green courses or green components of courses. Selected green programs include, but are not limited to:

Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration (HVAC)

- Clackamas Community College
- Portland Community College
- Treasure Valley Community College

Facilities Maintenance Technology

- Portland Community College

Visit the Oregon Green Career Pathways website, OregonGreenPathways.org, for more information on skills, opportunities, and training in heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration.

Visit QualityInfo.org/Green for more information about green jobs in Oregon.

