

Join the Workforce of the Future

If you're looking for ways to earn money – or simply upgrade your construction skills – register now to learn how to install solar hot water heaters. The Tallahassee Community College will offer a non-credit course on “Solar Thermal Hot Water Heating” in Wakulla County during May 11-21, Monday – Thursday, 6-10 pm.

The cost of the 32-hour course is \$109, which includes all course materials. Classes will be held at TCC's Wakulla Center on Crawfordville Highway (across from DUX). You need not be a plumber or electrician to take the course. To register, call (850) 201-8760 or e-mail trades@tcc.fl.edu. You may also register online at the TCC home page at tcc.fl.edu. Click “Eaglenet”; click “search for open classes”; type “solar” in the course title box; then follow the registration instructions.

Full scholarships are available to Chamber of Commerce members and their employees. To obtain a Burt Poole Scholarship for this course, stop by the Chamber Office at the Old Courthouse on 23 High Street or call Petra Shuff at 926-1848 for information.

Solar hot water heaters are increasingly in demand by homeowners eager to reduce their electricity bills. Homeowners typically recover the installation costs in about 2 years through savings on electricity.

Customers of Progress Energy can receive a \$450 rebate for installing a solar hot water heater and a \$60 annual rebate thereafter. New owners of solar hot water heaters may apply for up to \$2,500 in federal and state tax credits and rebates.

Elinor Elfner of Shell Point retrofitted her home with a solar-powered hot water several years ago. Solar power now heats her water for free 93% of the year. During prolonged cloudy or rainy weather, back-up electric heating kicks in but is rarely needed.

If you work in the building trades, don't miss this opportunity to learn a new skill. Numerous customers await the graduates of this course. At the recent Green Living and Energy Expo, more than 20 potential customers provided their contact information. Others who are interested in having a solar thermal hot water heater installed may contact Jessica Welch (926-0919; jwelch@mywakulla.com) or Lynn Artz (320-2158; lynn_artz@hotmail.com).

