



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why is PECl a not-for-profit organization?

A: PECl was originally created by the City of Portland as a public, not-for-profit entity. Its mission at that time was to put into practice some of the first local government energy conservation programs using federal dollars. As public policy and the energy conservation field evolved, PECl was reorganized as a private, not-for-profit corporation whose mission became, and still remains, to advance responsible energy use. This made PECl better able to take on a wider scope of activities for a variety of government agencies, utilities and private organizations, and it provided a focus for our education and outreach activities that we still rely on to advance our industry.

Q: Is PECl growing?

A: Yes. As you may know, the energy efficiency market has grown rapidly, and as a result, so has PECl. We have increased the breadth and depth of our programs, as well as our number of employees. Because we have a solid reputation for delivering results, our success provides us with the ability to invest in our future, build our infrastructure, and provide greater stability within the consulting environment. We are excited about our opportunity to create careers for individuals looking for the chance to combine their passion with their profession.

Q: Is PECl part of the City of Portland?

A: No. Although PECl was originally created by the City of Portland, it has been a private corporation for over 20 years.

Q: Does PECl work with renewable energy programs?

A: Not directly. Our expertise and position in the market focuses on areas directly related to energy efficiency. Since the energy industry as a whole seeks to present more integrated choices to customers, renewable energy is on the list of things that could be integrated, along with retrofits, savings from operations, demand response, load management, cogeneration, and combined heat and power. We are tracking these developments and working on some integration opportunities within some of our programs.

Q: Where does PECl operate and do business?

A: PECl's primary office is located in downtown Portland, Oregon. Additionally, we have staff members who work throughout California and the four Northwest states and expect to continue to build our presence outside of Oregon. PECl's client base is diverse and nationwide.

Q: Is work experience in the energy industry required?

A: Because PECl's clients expect and require expert professional delivery from us, energy industry experience is highly valued. At the same time, the tremendous growth in the energy industry means everybody has to take on developing the next generation of energy efficiency professionals. PECl hires talented, new people from other industries and invests in "bringing them up the learning curve" with real-time experience in our projects. Since there is an industry-wide need for energy efficiency, we also pursue initiatives to develop and deliver more training to the industry.

We are committed to providing opportunities for any employee who wants to learn the energy industry and build a career there. We look for people who are excited about the opportunity to learn, and focus on the talents individuals bring to the company. Staff members at PECl have diverse backgrounds in a wide variety of industries, which we believe only increases our strength as a team.

Q: What kinds of jobs are at PECl?

A: PECl employs a variety of professionals, from Energy Efficiency Engineers and Technical Writers to Marketing and Communication Specialists. We employ individuals in Program Management, Market Outreach, and Technical Research. We have employees who provide expertise in Data Management, and employees working in the field performing energy assessments for customers. We have employees working in Research and Analysis to investigate and develop energy efficiency measures, as well as employees developing protocols that can be adopted into building codes. The jobs and opportunities are many.

Q: What is the career path at PECl?

A: As the energy efficiency field has grown, we have been developing people in all of the areas mentioned above. In addition, we build our hierarchy of position requirements upon increasing levels of industry and technical knowledge, increasing levels of management expertise, and responsibility and performance toward project goals. Different positions require different mixes of these traits of course, but as employees master the requirements at any given level, we look for the opportunity to recognize that success through promotions and increased compensation.

We recognize and value employees who build their knowledge base and skill set; their work provides for greater flexibility and efficiency in achieving our goals. We encourage our employees to look for opportunities within the organization, to excel and to push themselves to the next level of performance. The key to success among all of our employees is a desire to achieve, an ability to think creatively, and a drive to accomplish results.

Q: What is PECl's culture and values?

A: PECl is an organization fueled by passion for energy efficiency and the desire to work in the best interests of our clients, colleagues, partners, and community. Our focus is on delivering results that positively impact our environment and our future. We work hard at PECl and we accomplish great things. We continue to blend the need for innovation and practical application to effectively be a leader in the energy efficiency field.