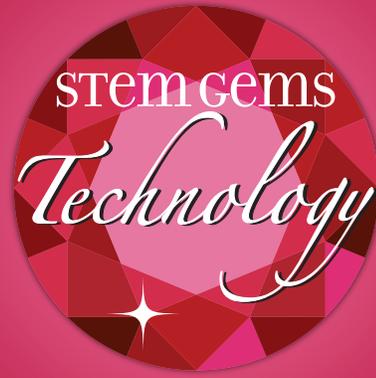


STEM Gem Career:  
**SOLAR ENERGY TECHNOLOGIST**

STEM Gem:  
**ANDREA LUECKE**

*“Work hard and network as much as you possibly can. I don’t buy into gender roles or gender stereotypes and don’t think that women are inherently more instinctual or smarter or that men are better negotiators. We are different but equal.”*



Is a career in Solar Energy Technology in your future? Solar is universal and benefits all walks of life. Mastermind behind the National Solar Jobs Census report series, STEM Gem Andrea Luecke believes that it’s time for solar energy to be a greater part of the climate discussion. Read her story and digest. Consider watching one of her videos. Then, with your STEM Gems Tribe, **discuss, explore, reflect,** and **act.**

## **DISCUSS**

1. How do Solar Energy Technologists like Ms. Luecke make a difference in the world?
2. What experiences did Ms. Luecke have that led to her pursuit of a career as a Solar Energy Technologist?
3. What is Ms. Luecke’s educational background?
4. What are some of the challenges that Ms. Luecke faced along her journey?
5. What are some of Ms. Luecke’s key accomplishments?
6. What inspired you most about Ms. Luecke’s story?
7. Ms. Luecke says: *“Work hard and network as much as you possibly can. I don’t buy into gender roles or gender stereotypes and don’t think that women are inherently more instinctual or smarter or that men are better negotiators. We are different but equal.”* What does this mean to you?

## EXPLORE

1. To pursue a career in Solar Energy Technology, what college majors should you consider?
2. What colleges and universities have programs in these areas?
3. What companies hire Solar Energy Technologists? What is the salary range?
4. Name at least two other women Solar Energy Technologists. How are they similar to Ms. Luecke? How are they different?
5. What professional organizations support women in Solar Energy Technology? Do they have conferences, internship, or mentorship programs available for middle and high school students?

## REFLECT

Though in a very heavily male-dominated industry, Ms. Luecke does not buy into gender roles or gender stereotypes. What gender biases have you experienced at school or in your community? What can you do to debunk the perceptions of what girls can or cannot do?

## ACT

It's time to step outside your comfort zone. Name one concrete thing you will do before your next meeting that will have you one step closer to becoming a STEM Gem. Blog about it. Include it in your written or photo journal. Hold yourself accountable.

***Work hard. Be brave. Stay curious.***

**BE A GEM!**

*Stephanie Espy*

P.S. I'd love to hear about your journey. Share on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram and tag @STEMGemsBook #STEMGemsTribe, or email me at [tribe@STEMGemsBook.com](mailto:tribe@STEMGemsBook.com).