careers in energy | career pathways

Energy Services Labourers and Operators

Energy Services Labourers and Operators are career paths that provide contracted labour and services throughout the various stages of energy production. Workers may be employed by service companies or directly by energy producers. Energy services include several activities, products, and services that support energy exploration, production, and well abandonment. These jobs offer an entry point into the energy industry. Some jobs may be seasonal during the fall and winter months while others are needed all year around.

Job career progression is traditionally based on experience and mechanical/technical aptitude along with a strong work ethic. Often, energy services workers start as labourers and will assist other crew members under supervision until they have had reasonable exposure to doing tasks independently. With more experience, workers will then ”move up” to more skilled tasks and even leadership roles.

You can make a meaningful impact in energy services and have a lengthy, successful career. In this career pathway, there are hands-on opportunities to learn. You may be trained to operate leading technologies that supply the world with energy. The career will appeal if you like to work in a high-paced, team-based environment. You will need to focus on safe work practices to protect yourself and others. You will also get the right training to keep your skills up to date. There are opportunities to travel locally and abroad working as a skilled Energy Services Labourer or Operator.

Energy services workers are rewarded for positive attitudes, ongoing learning, and hard work. There are opportunities to grow within companies. The industry needs Energy Services Labourers and Operators who contribute to sustainable energy production and environmental protection.

Established Energy Sectors:

- Oil and Gas
- Offshore Oil and Gas
- Oil Sands
- Energy Services
- Pipelines
- Refining

Emerging Energy Sectors:

- Biofuels
- Hydrogen
- Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)
- Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)

For energy sector definitions, go to **CareersinEnergy.ca**

What Energy Services Labourers and Operators Do

Prepare, Check, and Maintain Equipment

Energy Services Labourers and Operators are responsible for having the right materials, tools, equipment, and vehicles that are needed for scheduled jobs. They make sure that all the equipment is clean, ready, checked to be in working order, and maintained.

Assist or Direct Task

Energy Services Labourers and Operators load, set up, take down, and clean up equipment and sites. They assist or direct these tasks that are needed for field services and operations.

Update Logs

Energy Services Labourers and Operators keep records, or logs, of information. These logs include maintenance records. Other records include those that are required by different field service operations.

Use Tools and Operate Equipment

Energy Services Labourers and Operators drive vehicles to and from job locations. On the job, they operate a variety of tools and equipment and leading-edge technologies used for seismic tests, drilling, completing and servicing wells, and performing various tasks on industrial worksites.

Assist, Perform, or Oversee Safe Operations

Energy Services Labourers and Operators carry out several tasks to make sure operations are carried out safely. They assist and use as well as oversee the use of specialized tools and equipment with other members of the crew. Workers will be expected to participate in safety meetings prior to beginning shifts and special tasks.

Key Skills and Abilities Energy Services Labourers and Operators Need

This chart shows the knowledge, skills, certifications, and personal attributes needed to enter the energy industry and advance as an Energy Services Labourers and Operators. Each occupation, job level, and responsibility will require a different mix of these skills and abilities. The most important and generally required skill is a driver's licence. On top of that, employers will often provide training to support employee career development.

Technical Skills

Ongoing learning on-the-job

Familiar with hand and power tools and their uses

Familiar with mechanical equipment and their uses

Perform maintenance on equipment to:

- keep it functional
- prevent damage or failures
- replace or adjust defective parts

Work in or around potentially hazardous heavy equipment, chemicals, explosives, etc.

Operate and maintain specialized equipment (training provided)

Drive trucks to, from, and around worksites

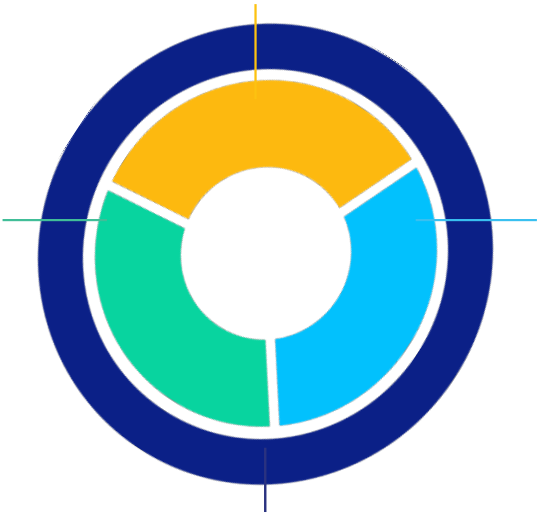
Core Knowledge

Knowledge about how to perform physical and manual work activities

Awareness of safe operating practices in industrial settings

Experience working with materials, equipment, and tools

Knowledge about how to gather and organize personal gear for safety-sensitive and outdoor worksites



Personal Attributes

Adaptability

Collaboration

Stress tolerance

Active learning

Attention to detail

Analytical thinking

Independence

Innovativeness

Physically fit

Ability to work long hours

Beneficial Certifications

Appropriate class Driver's Licence + clean driving abstract. The type of licence required for jobs includes:

- Passenger vehicle licence
- Class 3 or D licence (commercial, heavy trucks, straight-body)
- Class 1 or A licence (commercial semi-trailer trucks, long combination with air brakes)*

Specific endorsements for certain types of commercial vehicles and operations such as air brakes

Oilfield Driver Awareness

Standard and Emergency First Aid

H2S Alive

Fall Protection

Confined Space Entry

Transportation of Dangerous Goods

Aerial Lift

Forklift

Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS)

Pre-employment tests for fitness, drugs, and alcohol

* Required licence classes and their vision, hearing, and physical fitness requirements vary among Canadian provinces and territories

Energy Services Labourers and Operators Careers in the Energy Industry

Many Energy Services Labourers and Operators do not require any previous experience or specialized training. Employers are willing to provide training. You can often secure a position if you have the relevant driver's licence, a clean driving abstract and safety courses such as First Aid and H2S Alive certifications. The roles described below are generally consistent across all energy sectors requiring energy services workers.

Career Level	Entry	Mid	Senior
Types of Jobs	**Seismic** • Driller's Helper • Seismic Helper/Labourer • Recording Crew • Seismic Shooter **Drilling Rig (Onshore and Offshore)** • Leasehand • Floorhand • Roustabout **Service Rig** • Floorhand **Field and Site Services** • Labourer • Operator-in-Training • Operator 2	**Seismic** • Seismic Driller/Operator • Seismic Vibrator Operator • Seismic Navigator (Marine) • Seismic Coordinator **Drilling Rig** • Motorhand • Derrickhand • Driller **Service Rig** • Derrickhand • Driller **Field and Site Services** • Operator 3 • Operator 4	**Seismic** • Vibrator Technician • Crew Leader • Fleet Manager **Drilling Rig** • Driller • Rig Manager (tool push) **Service Rig** • Rig Manager **Field and Site Services** • Operator 5 • Supervisor
Minimum education and/or experience typically required	Minimum Grade 10 with high school graduation preferred Employers often provide specialized on-the-job learning	Minimum Grade 10 with high school graduation preferred Variety of equipment and safety certifications.	Minimum Grade 10 with high school graduation preferred Additional specialized training and certifications may be required

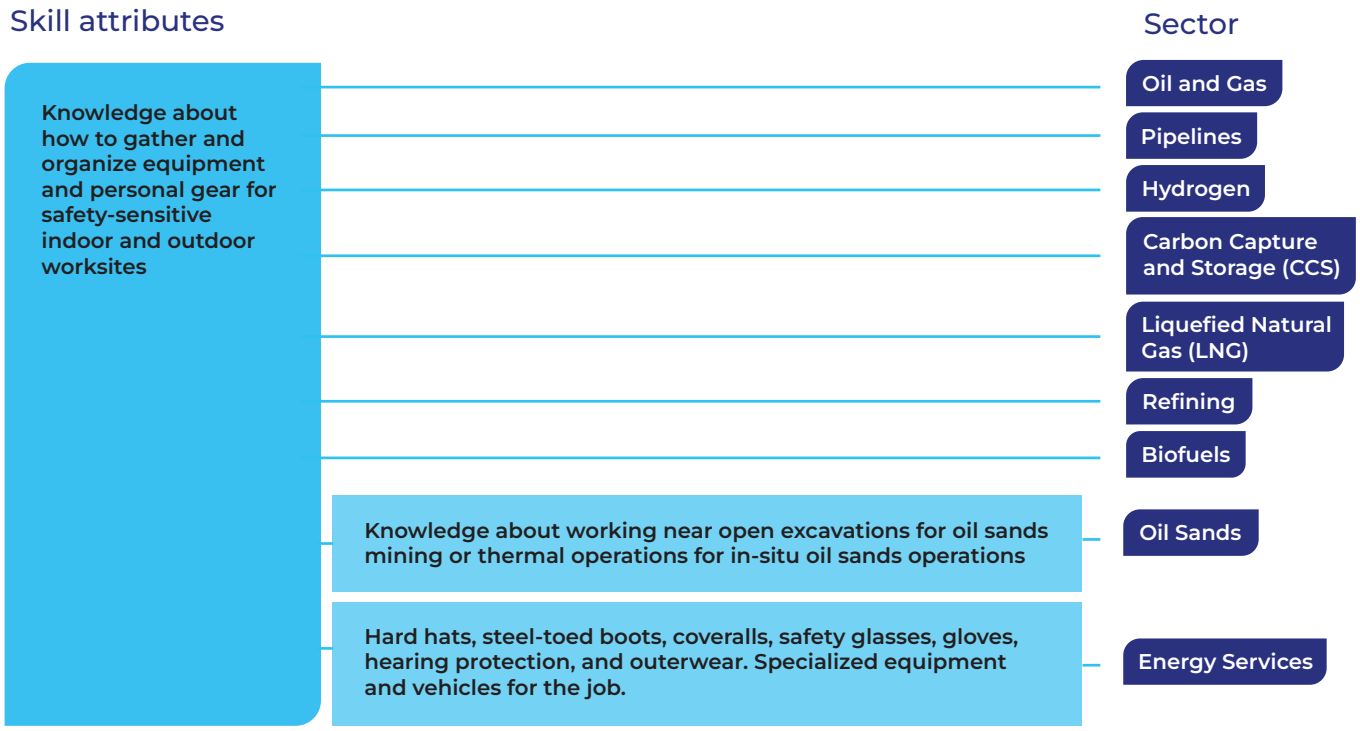
Transferring Energy Services Labourers and Operators' Skills from One Energy Sector to Another

There are core skills and knowledge that all Energy Services Labourers and Operators need for their careers. These building blocks are needed across all energy sectors and for all specializations.

All sectors will typically contract services from Energy Services for equipment and seismic, drilling and field/site services and workers. The following flow charts present the core skills and knowledge Energy Services Labourers and Operators need as building blocks. It will also identify evolving skills needed to address the needs in each energy sector. Each energy sector uses the building blocks in different ways.

New entrants to an Energy Services Labourers and Operators career can use the diagrams to understand the building block skills needed to work in sectors across the energy industry. Experienced Energy Services Labourers and Operators can use the diagrams to explore how each building block is applied across the energy sectors.

Skill: Choose the correct tools and equipment to perform a job



Skill: Operate tools, equipment, machines, and vehicles

Skill attributes	Sector
Preparing, checking and loading tools and equipment Assemble equipment and tools Drive and operate specialized vehicles	All sectors
Use specialized equipment to perform: services for seismic, drilling, well servicing, well completions, well abandonments, and field and industrial worksite services	Oil and Gas
Use specialized equipment to perform: seismic, drilling, and field/site operations services on drilling and production vessels	Offshore Oil and Gas
Use specialized equipment to perform: clear sites, manage water, drill, complete, and service in-situ wells; close sites	Oil Sands
Use specialized equipment to perform: services in varying road and weather conditions for seismic, drilling, and field/site operations	Energy Services
Use specialized equipment to perform: services and maintenance on worksites and facilities such as nitrogen pumping to purge pipelines	Hydrogen
Use specialized equipment to perform: services and maintenance on worksites and facilities include drilling and service rigs for CO2 injection wells, cementing, casing, and coiled tubing operations, as well as nitrogen pumping services	Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)
Use specialized equipment to perform: services and maintenance on worksites and facilities such as nitrogen pumping to purge pipelines	Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Refining Biofuels
Heavy equipment operator training may be required and is often offered by employers	Oil Sands Pipelines
Use specialized processes to purge pipelines	Pipelines
Use lifting equipment to move, transport, onload, secure, and offload pipes	Pipelines

Skill: Troubleshoot causes of operating issues with equipment and take steps to repair

Skill attributes	Sector
Understand how equipment functions to troubleshoot problems	All sectors
Use monitoring instruments to detect and report possible problems	All sectors
Use monitoring instruments to detect and report possible problems	All sectors

Skill: Perform maintenance on equipment, devices, buildings, and machinery

Skill attributes	Sector
General labour and maintenance tasks around field operations sites, vehicles, facilities and equipment	All sectors
Inspect, clean and maintain tools, equipment and facilities	All sectors

Skill: Identify risk and safety issues and determine ways to avoid risk and improve safety

Skill attributes	Sector
Operate vehicles and equipment in compliance with health, safety and environmental practices and regulations Identify, prevent and report potential hazards Emergency response training Construction and industrial safety for work sites generally includes: • Pipeline construction safety • Oil spill response • H2S Alive • Working in confined spaces • Potential hazards of working with toxic substances	All sectors
Basic survival, helicopter/vessel safety, rigging, and slinging training	Offshore Oil and Gas
Working near water requires training with self-rescue equipment	Oil Sands
Advanced hydrogen safety	Hydrogen
Potential hazards of working with CO2	Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)

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Career Outlook for Energy Services Labourers and Operators

Projected to have a large number of job openings

Projected to have 1,500 or more job openings over the period 2022-2035 nationwide.

Source: Careers in Energy, National Labour Market Outlook to 2035

Top 10 in-demand

Top 10 in-demand occupation: Projected to have the greatest number of job openings over the period 2022 - 2035 nationwide.

Source: Careers in Energy, National Labour Market Outlook to 2035

Projected labour shortages

The demand for workers is projected to be greater than the supply of available workers.

Source: Careers in Energy, National Labour Market Outlook to 2035