

Grad student anticipates green future

BY LINDA OBELE
Contributing Writer

Andrew Krause counts himself among the generation of up-and-comers who will populate the future's green workforce.

As Krause sees it, green jobs fall mainly into two camps. In one category are jobs in which existing skills are transferable to developing, sustainable industries. Construction workers turned solar installers fall into this group.

On the other side are jobs in the emerging green economy that haven't even been conceived yet.

"This is where sustainability students excel," Krause said of the second group.

The 2009 graduate of Arizona State University's School of Sustainability expects to receive a master's degree from that school next summer.

"We will be able to connect the dots to create new jobs," he said. "Green jobs are just part of the culture now for college students."

Krause, 25, was among the first four students to earn an undergraduate degree from the School of Sustainability. He immediately landed a job working for a San Diego-based solar energy company, charged with opening and operating a Northern California regional office.

"I've never had a challenge finding a job," he said.

'I'm trying to keep ahead of the impending wave I see coming through on the green job experience.'

Andrew Krause
Arizona State University
School of Sustainability

Today he is chief process officer at Natural Power & Energy, a solar integration and consulting firm he helped start in Scottsdale. He is responsible for guiding strategy and executing large projects there.

He also volunteers as an industry adviser to ASU's Solar Energy Engineering & Commercialization graduate program, counseling others how to find jobs in that field.

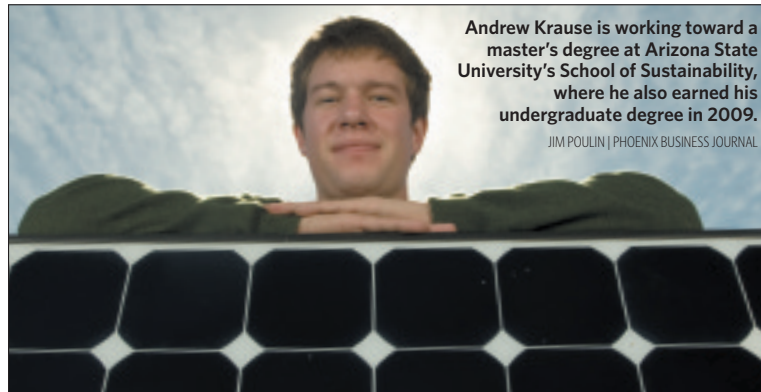
Krause believes one of the greatest barriers right now for students hoping to secure green jobs is that "ASU's sustainability program is advanced for what the market is willing to receive in the recession. The onus is on the market to catch up."

He agrees with ASU sustainability professor George Basile, who believes every job will be a green job in the future, because existing positions that are unsustainable will be regulated into extinction or eliminated because of depleted resources.

Krause sees a thriving green economy on the horizon, too, but said it's not here yet.

Until that time comes, he figures he'll spend some more time at ASU soaking up all the extra knowledge he can through his graduate studies.

"I'm trying to keep ahead of the impending wave I see coming through on the green job experience," he said. "Plus, I decided I needed to spend more time around these professors, picking their brains."



Andrew Krause is working toward a master's degree at Arizona State University's School of Sustainability, where he also earned his undergraduate degree in 2009.

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