

Solar America Initiative

2008 Funding Opportunity for Cities Apply Today!!

Solar America Cities – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Solar America Initiative seeks to form strategic partnerships that will accelerate the adoption of solar technology at the local level. This includes engaging city governments as important end users of energy, key intermediaries to other end users within their jurisdictions, and regulatory entities. The 8 to 12 cities selected will receive a combined \$2.4 million in DOE funding plus substantial hands-on assistance to:

- Integrate solar technologies into city energy planning, zoning, and facilities;
- Streamline city-level regulations and practices that affect solar adoption by residents and local businesses, including permits, inspections, and local codes;
- Promote solar technology among residents and local businesses through outreach, curriculum development, incentive programs, and other innovative approaches.

To apply, visit http://www.eere.energy.gov/solar/solar_america/open_upcoming_fund_opps.html

About the Solar America Initiative

The Solar America Cities awards are part of the Market Transformation efforts of the Solar America Initiative (SAI). President Bush launched SAI in 2006 to accelerate the development of advanced solar technologies, including photovoltaics and concentrating solar power systems, with the goal of making them cost-competitive with conventional forms of electricity, e.g., coal and natural gas.

The Market Transformation focus of SAI addresses marketplace barriers and offers solar technologies the opportunity for market expansion. The other areas of SAI deal with research and development of solar technology including innovative devices and processes, prototype PV components, and collaborative research and development activities among industry, university, and DOE's national laboratories.



In addition to funding Solar America Cities, DOE is undertaking several other activities to expand the solar energy market.

Solar America Board of Codes & Standards

DOE has funded a collaborative effort, led by New Mexico State University, to create the Solar America Board of Codes & Standards. The Board is composed of experts in the solar energy field and has convened panels to address codes, standards, and interconnection and net-metering issues. Visit www.solarabcs.org to learn more.

Solar America Showcases

DOE's Solar America Showcases activity provides technical assistance to parties pursuing high impact, novel applications of solar technologies with good potential for replicability. Solar America Showcases are available for all communities to apply and are ideal for communities not eligible to become a Solar America City. Visit http://www.eere.energy.gov/solar/solar_america/solar_america_showcases.html for updates on technical assistance opportunities.

State and Utility Outreach

DOE partners with organizations that focus on the needs of key state and utility decision makers. The National Conference of State Legislatures, Clean Energy Group, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, and the Solar Electric Power Association will work with DOE to improve the legislative and regulatory environment for solar energy. Visit http://www.eere.energy.gov/solar/solar_america/technical_outreach.html for the latest developments.

Workforce Development and Certification

To help educational institutions meet industry demand for a well-trained workforce, DOE is developing a program that will facilitate the efforts of community colleges in designing and implementing solar installer courses as such programs become necessary in certain geographic areas. The DOE team hopes to announce this program at the Hudson Valley Community College workforce development conference in March 2008. For more information, contact Katie Bolcar at 202.586.2820 or kathleen.bolcar@hq.doe.gov.

Resources

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy: www.eere.energy.gov/

Solar America Initiative: www.eere.energy.gov/solar/solar_america

EERE Solar Program: www.eere.energy.gov/solar/photovoltaics.html

Database of State & Local Incentives for Renewable Energy: www.DSIREUSA.org

EERE State Activities & Partnerships: www.eere.energy.gov/states

NREL Solar Energy Basics: www.nrel.gov/learning/re_solar.html

American Solar Energy Society (ASES): www.ases.org

Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC): www.irecusa.org/

U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC): www.usgbc.org