



Press Kit

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FACT SHEET

Mission: To promote installation of solar PV and solar thermal on public facilities, homes, and private properties and to promote energy efficiency countywide through a public/private partnership.

Overview: Founded in 2002, Solar Sonoma County is a consortium of local businesses, elected officials, city governments and individuals who are dedicated to reducing greenhouse gases through the installation of solar and energy efficiency applications. SSC is an organization that supports solar energy efficiency-related policy issues, educates and trains community members in the field, advocates for rapidly growing industry, and acts as a clearinghouse for clean energy activity in Sonoma County.

SSC is part of an unprecedented countrywide solar and environmental effort that has captured the attention of President Obama and the Department of Energy, who often refer to Sonoma County as a national model for cutting-edge programs.

Staff: Alison Healy, Erica Bongberg

Board of Directors: Barry Cogbill (Pathways Energy Consultants), John Haig (County of Sonoma), Armando Navarro (Pacific Gas & Electric), Cordel Stillman (Sonoma County Water Agency), Chris Warner (ZFA Structural Engineers)

501c3 nonprofit educational organizational program

Employer Identification Number (EIN): 30-0508907

Founding Sponsors: International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW Local 551), PG&E (Santa Rosa), Solar Sebastapol, Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA), Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), Department of Energy (DOE), Solar America Cities

Headquarters: 900 College Avenue, 2nd Floor, Santa Rosa, CA (at the corner of Beaver Street)

Contact Information:

Mail to:

Solar Sonoma County

900 College Avenue

Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Phone: (707) 284-9799

FAX: (707) 324-8335

General Info:

gosolar@solarsonomacounty.org

Website: www.solarsonomacounty.org

MEDIA CONTACT:

Lori Houston
Solar Sonoma County
lorijh@sonic.net
707.284.9799
707.569.6029 cell

**History**

Originally established in 2002 as Solar Sebastopol, Solar Sonoma County was founded by Lori Houston and Marty Roberts with a grant from the U.S. Department of energy, in partnership with the City of Santa Rosa. The program has garnered national and international media attention as one of 25 Solar America Cities, and the only countywide program.

In March 2008, the City of Santa Rosa, on behalf of Solar Sonoma County, won a prestigious U.S. Department of Energy Solar America Cities grant to form Solar Sonoma County and create a countywide solar implementation plan. Santa Rosa is now designated by the Department of Energy to set the example for the rest of the nation on how to mainstream solar energy through local action.

Working together with local governments, businesses, solar vendors, energy efficiency professionals, nonprofits, and individuals, Solar Sonoma County is working collaboratively to advance Sonoma County's transition to clean, renewable energy. Solar Sonoma County's goal is to reduce CO2 emissions to meet and even exceed countywide targets for climate protection, which ultimately will reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.

Accomplishments:

- Countywide Solar Implementation Plan: Working to streamline and standardize solar policies for all local governments.
- Public Installations: Assisting local governments with solar PV and thermal power installations at public facilities.
- Promoting efficiency and conservation by bundling with solar initiatives.
- Aggregating public outreach, education, and marketing for solar energy.

-Establishing innovative financing and incentives to make solar more easily adopted.

- Awarded Special Recognition from Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey in November 2010 for Solar Sonoma County's leadership in sustainability collaborative initiative.

Solar Sonoma County focuses on four principle program areas:

-Clean Energy Workforce: Our programs include developing scholarships, training and mentoring a clean energy workforce facilitating vendor groups, supporting industry standards, and developing quality assurance.

-Clean Energy Advocate (CEA): Sponsored by the Department of Energy, CEA is designed to assist homeowners in the process of energy efficiency upgrades and solar installations and financing. Free to the public, this service has been created to demystify the process to facilitate the adoption of solar. The CEA program is a collaborative partnership between the City of Santa Rosa and Solar Sonoma County.

-Community Resource: SSC serves as a clearinghouse for who's who and who's doing what with clean energy in Sonoma County. We offer a calendar of events, green job postings, aggregated RSS green news feeds, case studies, and recommended and vetted clean energy vendor lists.

-Advocacy: SSC has grown into a powerful local organization with a constituency of elected officials and local government staff, clean energy vendors, and other key stakeholders who allows us to quickly locate support for and to act on policy issues that will affect the future of clean energy in Sonoma County.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Armando Navarro, *PG&E*

Armando has more than 25 years of professional experience in the fields of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and green building. As a Community Energy Manager for PG&E in the North Bay, Armando is known for his successful efforts in leading the charge towards achieving energy efficiency on a countywide scale. Armando was the program director of the Sonoma State University Green Building Professional Certificate Program and a technical consultant to several cities in the North Bay for green building and policies. SSC is privileged to have his field expertise on our team.

Cordel Stillman, *Sonoma County Water Agency*

Cordel is Deputy Chief Engineer for the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) where his responsibilities include development and management of renewable energy projects. He has more than 22 years of public sector experience in planning, design and construction management. At SCWA, he has worked diligently on a number of projects aimed at expanding renewable energy technologies in Sonoma County. Under his supervision, SCWA has installed a total of 2 Megawatts of solar power in three locations. Cordel was also instrumental in the creation of the Sonoma County Energy Independence Program. His background and commitment to renewable energy make Cordel a tremendous asset to Solar Sonoma County.

Barry Cogbill, *Pathways Solar Energy Brokers*

Barry is one of the hardest working people in clean energy in Sonoma County. Barry serves on the Board of Directors of Solar Sonoma County and has chaired its Vendor Committee. In this capacity, he is a liaison to the local community of solar installers and he also guides the work of SSC's grant projects through the Department of Energy, all the while consulting with local businesses to implement energy efficient practices. Barry has hosted a Clean Energy Expert radio show that is now web cast on SSC's website. Barry's passion for clean and efficient energy makes him essential to the success of Solar Sonoma County.

John Haig, *Sonoma County Redevelopment Authority*

John has an extensive work history with a wide array of skills. He is currently with the County of Sonoma's Community Development Commission. He previously served as division manager for Energy and Sustainability in the County's General Services Department. John played an instrumental role in the County's greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategy, directed the operations of the Sonoma County Energy Independence Program, the County's renewable energy and efficiency funding program, and has participated in many other green initiatives. As a founding member of Solar Sonoma County, John has helped keep SSC on track and in touch with countywide initiatives.

Chris Warner, *ZFA Structural Engineers*

Chris Warner is a principal with ZFA Structural Engineers and has performed structural design and analysis for many project types, including industrial, residential, winery, commercial, and educational facilities throughout California. For many years, he has incorporated unconventional yet environmentally-friendlier elements into his projects. This includes providing structural engineering

for the largest straw bale building in the world (at the time of construction). Chris has worked with multiple clients and the Division of State Architect to engineer several photovoltaic systems for schools throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. From ground-mounted to roof-mounted to floating systems, he has partnered with solar companies on numerous projects to devise cost-efficient designs.

COUNSEL

Jason Vargelis, *Legal Counsel*

Jason's expertise lies within federal, state, and local tax law. His unique specialty in solar tax and incentive programs has allowed him to build a solid reputation for creating unanticipated savings for his clients. Jason has authored several publications addressing the incentives of implementing solar technologies. We are truly thankful for Jason's contributions to Solar Sonoma County.

STAFF

Alison Healy, *SSC Executive Director*

Alison is a seasoned veteran of nonprofit management having founded her own organization and consulted for many more. She has a distinctive educational background from Stanford and Presidio graduate schools in sustainability and environmental management. Alison is excited to be part of the countywide effort to promote solar and energy efficiency in Sonoma County. With a broad range of entrepreneurial work experience, her knowledge in the nonprofit sector has helped SSC to further define its brand and to develop an infrastructure that will foster its growth. Alison is step mom to "Tiger," her rockin' 8-year-old who has an insatiable appetite for learning and doing. When she's not at SSC, Alison spends her time helping Tiger with chess tournament rules, art projects, new Mandarin words, sailing, and acting classes!

Erica Bongberg, *SSC Office Manager*

Erica's role as Office Manager gives her the responsibilities of maintaining the administrative infrastructure of SSC. With a strong background in Human Resources, she brings to us a wealth of experience in building policies and procedures. Erica is committed to promoting solar and energy efficiency efforts throughout Sonoma County. We are fortunate to have her attention to detail and high standards for excellence. Erica is Mom to Noah, 9 and Hannah 6; you may have heard the crowds cheering for Noah on the football field with cheers led by Hannah and her squad – look out these honor roll students are taking Sonoma by storm!

FOUNDERS

Lori Houston, *Co-Founder, Consultant*

Lori Houston is a co-founder of Solar Sonoma County. Lori is a communications professional with 20 years of experience in public relations, media consulting, marketing, and journalism. Lori works primarily with renewable energy, health care, and media clients in the North San Francisco Bay Area. She is a 2006-07 Fellow of Leadership Training for a Sustainable Future, offered through the Leadership Institute for Ecology and the Economy. Lori was involved with Solar Sebastopol, a first-of-its-kind city solar program started in 2003 that laid the foundation to launch Solar Sonoma County in 2008.

Marty Roberts, *Co-Founder*

Marty Roberts is a co-founder of Solar Sonoma County and was a founder of Solar Sebastopol that inspired the formation of SSC. Marty is currently owner of Marty Roberts Productions specializing in web sites, video, events, PR, and social media services for nonprofits and small businesses. Marty was also a founder of the Sonoma County Farmlands Group in the 1980s and was executive director for 10 years. She has produced several regional conferences on transportation, farmland preservation, and solar energy. She holds a degree in Environmental Studies from Sonoma State University.

Additional Key Founding Members and Supporters

Deborah Fudge, Windsor Town Council

Alan Strachan,

Raymond Baltar

Martha Baeli, PG&E

John Lloyd, IBEW Local 551

Ken Norton



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 28, 2010

Solar Sonoma County, Solar Living Institute Partner on Solar Training Scholarship Award

SANTA ROSA, Calif. – As evidence of advancing the shift to a clean energy economy locally, Solar Sonoma County and Solar Living Institute have awarded the first ever solar job training scholarship.

Solar Sonoma County has partnered with the Solar Living Institute as the founding sponsor to create the SSC Scholarship Program, a series of solar installer training and certification courses to be awarded to selected individuals in need of job re-training and financial assistance. SSC and SLI jointly presented the scholarship at the Second Annual Solar Energy & Efficiency Fair on Saturday, June 19 as one of the highlights of the event's expanded focus on green jobs training resources and opportunities.

Eduardo Huerta, a Santa Rosa construction worker, is the recipient of the \$1,800 scholarship that covers tuition for three successive solar installation courses and a preparatory course for the North America Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) certification exam. NABCEP is the national certification organization for professional installers in the field of renewable energy.

Huerta worked as a stucco plasterer for more than a decade until taking a medical leave due to an accident in June 2008. When he was ready to return to work, he was unable to get his job back due to the economic downturn.

“Getting this scholarship benefits me financially but it will also improve my family’s quality of life and help me use these lessons to help the environment and better the lives of others,” Huerta says. “I want to find a career that interests me and what interests me is to know how to make things more energy efficient and to depend less on petroleum for energy. I know I can learn well in the area of renewable energy and pass along this information to many people to help make our world better.”

To qualify for the scholarship, Huerta has committed to attending and completing the series of classes at the SLI facility in Ukiah, CA. He has also agreed to mentor other future scholarship candidates and support the work of Solar Sonoma County as a volunteer once he has completed his training and certification and secured steady employment.

SSC will support Huerta with basic math and reading skills tutoring as needed, assistance in seeking

job opportunities and internships, and training for job interviews. “This scholarship program is an example of Solar Sonoma County’s commitment to inclusive workforce development,” says SSC Executive Director Alison Healy, who created the program. “We want to see this first scholarship recipient through to success so that we can build on this achievement. Of course we also want to know that we have changed at least one person's life.”

“For more than 15 years, the Solar Living Center has trained hundreds of individuals in practical photovoltaic installation and application skills. We are proud to help Eduardo Huerta acquire the professional knowledge he needs to compete in the expanding green jobs economy,” stated SLI’s Executive Director Ross Beck. “We look forward to supporting future solar scholarship opportunities with Solar Sonoma County.”

About Solar Sonoma County (www.solarsonomacounty.org)

Solar Sonoma County, a 501c3 nonprofit, is a consortium of local governments, businesses, solar vendors, energy efficiency professionals, nonprofits, and individuals working collaboratively to advance Sonoma County's transition to clean, renewable energy. SSC’s mission is to promote installation of solar PV (electric) and solar thermal (hot water) systems on public facilities, homes, and private properties and to promote energy efficiency countywide through our public/private partnership.

Media Contact:

Lori Houston

707.569.6029

lori@solarsonomacounty.org

About Solar living Institute (www.solarliving.org)

The Solar Living Institute, a 501c3 non profit, is the leader in promoting sustainable living through inspirational environmental education. SLI offers both onsite and online classes in photovoltaic design and installation and sustainable living, invites visitors to their 12-acre demonstration site in Hopland, and will be hosting the 14th annual SolFest event in Ukiah September 25-26, 2010.

Media Contact:

Daniel Arendt

707-472-2459

Daniel.Arendt@SolarLiving.org

MEDIA CONTACT:

Lori Houston
Solar Sonoma County
lorijh@sonic.net
707.284.9799
707.569.6029 cell



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 27, 2009

Community solar fair serves up everything under the sun on solar and efficiency

SANTA ROSA – Solar Sonoma County, in partnership with Pacific Gas & Electric, presents a free community Solar Fair on the Solstice – Saturday, June 20, 2009 – 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Finley Center and Park. With the theme “Solar & Efficiency for Clean Energy,” this event will bring together in one convenient venue everything Sonoma County homeowners and businesses need to know to reduce their energy costs and go solar. How do people know whether solar is right for their home or business? ... How much does a solar system cost? ... What kinds of financing options are available? ... Where can property owners get reliable information and resources? ... What else can be done to reduce energy use and save money?

The June 20 Solar Fair has something for everyone – regardless of whether they are candidates for solar – including an array of opportunities to learn about energy efficiency, green jobs, and local renewable energy initiatives and programs. The day will include keynote speakers, panel discussions, workshops, solar energy displays, energy efficiency information, solar vendor booths, nonprofit/public agency educational booths, and resources for green jobs.

“One of Solar Sonoma County’s main objectives is to give the public the tools they need to be informed and take action – whether it’s to go solar, reduce their energy use, or find other ways to participate in the shift to renewable energy. We are launching the solar fair as our first major public event to do this in a practical yet fun way,” says Marty Roberts, Solar Sonoma County Program Director and solar fair event producer. “People will be excited to learn everything Solar Sonoma County has been working on to ensure solar energy becomes an easy logical choice.”

Panelists will cover such topics as ...

- Sonoma County’s new public financing program for solar – the Sonoma County Energy Independence Program – offering local property owners no-money-down financing for efficiency and solar projects.
- What are federal, state, county, and local representatives doing to make solar easier and more affordable.
- What kinds of green jobs training resources and opportunities are available right now in Sonoma County to build the green workforce that is already starting to drive Sonoma County’s next wave of economic growth.

Workshops will enable fair goers to learn more and dig down into the details about ...

- Making homes more energy efficient
- How to go solar – for both PV & Hot Water
- Financing options for solar and energy efficiency

- Solar and energy efficiency for business

Speakers throughout the day will include ...

- Kevin Danaher, Global Exchange
- Panama Bartholomy, California Energy Commission
- Randy DeCaminada, PG&E
- Rod Dole, Sonoma County Auditor
- Cordel Stillman, Sonoma County Water Agency
- Debora Fudge, Windsor Town Council
- Susan Gorin, Santa Rosa Mayor
- Shirlee Zane, Sonoma County Supervisor
- Assemblywoman Noreen Evans
- State Senator Mark Leno
- State Senator Pat Wiggins
- U.S. Representative Lynn Woolsey
- Oscar Chavez, CAP Solar Training Program
- Dave Shufro, Agilent Technologies

Plus other speakers to be announced soon!

Because the solar fair will offer so many different elements, the Finley Center and Finley Park will be arranged into zones, or special areas designated by category, such as:

The **Solar Vendor Zone**, sponsored by Sunpower, featuring more than 20 local, regional, and national solar companies staffed by solar professionals ready to speak directly with fair goers and answer their specific questions about solar.

The **Energy Efficiency Zone** will include local energy efficiency businesses and service providers, retrofit contractors, and The Pathway to Clean Energy, a step-by-step interactive learning experience covering specific measures to maximize energy efficiency and cut costs before going solar – also known as the principle of “First Reduce, then Produce.” Pathway visitors will receive “passports” that get marked at each successive step/display along the way to clean energy. Holders of completed passports will be entered to win a free whole house performance analysis (valued at \$600).

The **Green Jobs Zone**, sponsored by Assemblywoman Noreen Evans and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 551, with booths and displays of local businesses, nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and schools focused on green jobs training programs and opportunities.

The **Family Fun Zone** with solar and energy efficiency fun and activities for all ages including solar-powered toys, solar oven cookie baking, hands-on demonstrations showing how solar works, face painting, storytelling, and more.

And of course the solar fair will feature solar-powered live local music, local food vendors, and local wines and organic beers.

This free community event is made possible through the support of the U.S. Department of Energy and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District as well as the following sponsors and partners: Sonoma County Water Agency, City of Santa Rosa, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 551, SunPower Corporation/SolarWorks/SolarCraft, Solar Depot, groSolar, Assemblymember Noreen Evans, KRCB, North Bay Bohemian, Sprint Copy Center of Sebastopol, and many, many more solar companies and local businesses.

About Solar Sonoma County

The solar fair on Saturday, June 20, 2009 marks the launch of Solar Sonoma County’s public outreach and education campaign to raise awareness and educate the public about our countywide solar goal of **25 new Megawatts of solar energy by 2011** while providing resources and inspiring people to reduce their energy usage and go solar.

Solar Sonoma County is a consortium of local governments, businesses, agencies, nonprofit groups, and individuals working together to bring solar energy and energy efficiency into the mainstream in Sonoma County. The shift to clean energy will reduce long-term energy costs and carbon emissions while stimulating the local and regional economy by creating new jobs. Local partners include all 10 local governments, the Sonoma County Water Agency, Pacific Gas & Electric, Agilent Technologies, the IBEW Local 551, 30+ solar companies, and many local businesses and individuals. Solar Sonoma County is one of 25 premier U.S. Department of Energy Solar America Cities programs – with the distinction of being the only countywide one. Learn more about Solar Sonoma County and our Solar Fair on June 20, 2009 – the Solstice! – at www.solarsonomacounty.org/events.html.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, April 4, 2008

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Marty Roberts

707.829.9191

MartyR@sonic.net

Solar Sonoma County



Patricia Fruht

707.543.3010

pfruiht@ci.santa-rosa.ca.us

City of Santa Rosa

Santa Rosa wins Solar America Cities recognition Grant awarded to create Solar Sonoma County

Santa Rosa, Calif. – Santa Rosa was named as one of the U.S. Department of Energy “Solar America Cities” for a proposal to create Solar Sonoma County, a countywide solar project to increase and accelerate local solar energy production. Santa Rosa is one of 25 cities now recognized by the DOE as “Solar America Cities” partners committed to solar technology adoption at the local level. Twelve new cities were announced for 2008, with 13 cities named as partners in 2007.

The City of Santa Rosa’s winning proposal is to expand the highly successful Solar Sebastopol program to a countywide effort in partnership with other local cities and the County of Sonoma. The City of Santa Rosa will administer the grant, with details still to be finalized. The funds will assist Santa Rosa’s and its Solar Sonoma County partners’ efforts to increase the amount of solar installations in the County by 25 megawatts over the next three years. Ultimately Solar Sonoma County will become a public-private consortium of local governments, solar companies, businesses, and other groups and organizations.

Solar Sonoma County plans to develop ways to increase local solar energy production, such as:

- Reducing or removing financial barriers for municipalities, businesses, and homeowners
- Creating additional solar and energy efficiency incentives
- Streamlining existing and recommending new local solar policies
- Engaging and educating the public about energy efficiency and solar energy through local events and centralized resources
- Identifying additional projects for achieving initial and future solar energy production goals
- Encouraging local municipalities to install solar on their buildings and properties.

Last fall, a group of interested representatives from county and city governments, solar companies, PG&E, and other local business interests began meeting together to explore the possibility of expanding Solar Sebastopol throughout the county.

“It is very exciting to see the level of interest and enthusiasm from local governments and many other organizations and individuals for this program. This grant award will only increase our momentum,” said Marty Roberts, founding member of Solar Sebastopol. In January, the City of Sebastopol, on behalf of Solar Sonoma County, won a \$75,000 grant from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to expand Solar Sebastopol countywide toward assisting local government in achieving their targeted greenhouse gas emissions reductions by 2015. The ad hoc Solar Sonoma County group set an initial target of 25 additional megawatts of solar energy in three years to meet roughly 10 percent of countywide electricity demand through solar energy, offsetting an estimated 8,500 tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually.

Initial partners in the Solar America Cities grant project include the cities of Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Petaluma, Windsor, Sonoma, Cotati, Cloverdale, Rohnert Park, and Healdsburg, the County of Sonoma, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 551. The program team consists of Roberts and Lori Houston (communications consultant), Dell Tredinnick (Project Development Manager, City of Santa Rosa Utilities Department), Tasha Wright (Administrative Analyst, City of Santa Rosa Utilities Department), and an organizational development consultant. Grant funds will enable the project to add technical writers and researchers to expand the base of knowledge about potential programs to support solar. Solar Sonoma County’s interim Working Group consists of representatives of all the local governments and organizations with an interest in promoting solar.

The grant application includes in-kind support from Santa Rosa in the form of planned and new municipal solar projects as well as staff time and resources for Solar Sonoma County meetings and projects. IBEW in-kind grant support includes free training workshops for solar installers as part of this program.

The City of Sebastopol’s \$75,000 grant award from the BAAQMD earlier this year also represents in-kind support.

For more information about Solar Sonoma County, see: www.solarsonomacounty.org.

For more information about the DOE “Solar America Cities” awards and program see: <http://www.doe.gov/news/6099.htm>
http://www1.eere.energy.gov/solar/solar_america/

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Solar Sebastopol

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 20, 2007

Solar Sebastopol wins grant to expand countywide

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Marty Roberts
(707) 829-9191
MartyR@sonic.net

Lori Houston
(707) 569-6029
lorijh@sonic.net

Sebastopol, CA – Solar Sebastopol has received a \$73,000 grant to expand its community solar energy program to a countywide effort to be called Solar Sonoma County. On December 19, 2007, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District Board of Directors awarded \$3 million in Climate Protection Grants to San Francisco Bay Area local governments and nonprofits for implementation of innovative projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Solar Sonoma County (SSC) is envisioned as a regional program, modeled after the highly successful Solar Sebastopol program, to promote and stimulate the generation of clean, renewable, cost-effective solar photovoltaic (PV) and solar thermal energy to supply more of Sonoma County's energy needs. SSC will support the Sonoma County Supervisors' and the County's nine cities' commitments to their aggressive 2015 greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets by developing a countywide solar implementation plan with elements to encourage and facilitate widespread adoption of solar energy for building related public, commercial, industrial, and residential electricity, addressing a major source of carbon emissions in this county.

“This is a phenomenal step forward toward a more sustainable future for Sonoma County that was birthed right here in Sebastopol,” says Sebastopol Mayor Craig Litwin. “Solar Sebastopol began in 2002 in partnership with students from Sonoma State University. This award provides the financial support for successfully linking up with other communities to expand the use of clean, renewable solar energy on a regional level.”

The Solar Sonoma County grant proposal ranked fifth overall out of more than 80 funding applications submitted. The Air District originally planned to award \$1.5 million in funds but raised the total award amount due to the overwhelming response as evidence of the tremendous interest in pursuing climate protection and the need for this type of

funding. The agency “was impressed by response to this grant program, the high level of creativity and innovation in the applications, and the demonstration of leadership our region is providing for the rest of the country,” according to the Air District announcement.

Solar Sonoma County objectives as outlined in the Air District grant proposal include:

- Addressing the cost barriers for municipal and residential solar through development of or partnership with a scalable, replicable market-based financing model.
- Providing a central clearinghouse for local government policies and best practices to encourage solar installation.
- Encouraging energy efficiency and conservation measures to reduced overall electricity demand.
- Conducting an ongoing public education and marketing campaign to promote solar energy. SSC is seeking the direct involvement of all of Sonoma County’s cities, the County Government, solar industry stakeholders, and other interested business, organizations, and individuals as part of a membership organization that collectively will determine the overarching vision, refine program goals, and develop and direct specific projects. The California Energy Commission, Senator Pat Wiggins, Assembly member Patty Berg, Pacific Gas & Electric, and the Green Energy Loan program support SSC.

In November, an ad hoc group of representatives from numerous municipalities in Sonoma County, solar energy companies, labor groups, and PG&E began meeting and formed an SSC Steering Committee to move forward with a countywide solar effort.

About Solar Sebastopol

Established in 2002, Solar Sebastopol is a local first-of-its-kind program to encourage more solar energy on residential, business, and public properties in Sebastopol. The program’s is to install 1 megawatt of solar power production in Sebastopol, equivalent to solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on about 500 average-size homes. From the outset, Solar Sebastopol garnered national and international media attention as the first community solar program of its kind. The program has served as a model of innovation for smaller communities that initially were looking for ways to increase local control over energy costs

As of July 2007, Sebastopol has installed 400,000 watts (400 kW) of solar within city limits, or 40% of the 1-megawatt (1,000 kW) goal, with 105.5 kW installed on City of Sebastopol properties. This year the City of Sebastopol received three awards from the NorCal Solar Energy Association in 2007 for installing more PV watts per capita than other small communities in the greater Bay Area. More than 1.4 Megawatts of solar PV has been installed in the greater Sebastopol area.

For more information about Solar Sebastopol, visit www.solarsebastopol.com or call (707) 823-1153.

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