



Solar Electric Power Association



Facilitating Utility Use and
Integration of Solar Electric
Power



California PV Managers Meeting

June 27, 2006



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Outline

- About SEPA
- Current and upcoming SEPA activities
- Federal tax credit update



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About SEPA

- Origins as Utility PhotoVoltaic Group (UPVG)
- Continued utility-focused mission
- 501(c)6 → 501(c)3 this year
- Association membership:
 - 50 Electric Utilities
 - 25 PV Companies
 - 25 Stakeholders



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A few of the 50
members in our utility network...

CALIFORNIA UTILITIES

- City of Palo Alto Utilities
- Imperial Irrigation District
- Los Angeles Department of Water & Power
- Northern California Power Agency
- Pacific Gas & Electric Company
- Plumas Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative
- Roseville Electric
- Sacramento Municipal Utility District
- San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
- San Diego Gas & Electric

FROM AROUND THE US

- Arizona Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.
- City of Tallahassee Utility Services
- Commonwealth Edison
- Duke Energy
- Long Island Power Authority
- Maui Electric Company
- New York Power Authority
- Northwest Rural Public Power District
- Salt River Project
- Southern Company Services
- Tucson Electric Power Company
- TXU
- We Energies



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Association Goals

- **Tools** - Provide tools to utilities and electric service providers on the use and integration of solar.
- **Networking** - Foster business to business networking.
- **Information** - Share information on solar electric technologies, applications, and programs.
- **Policy/Regulation Tracking** - Report on policies, regulations, and legislation.



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Tools

- PowerClerk Software
 - Incentive program management
- FindSolar.com
 - Calculator and contractor directory
- Commercial Installation Directory
 - Information about others' projects



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Networking

- SEPA's utility network has vast experience with:
 - Distributed solar
 - Residential retrofits and new construction
 - Commercial installations
 - Building integrated solar
 - Carports and other distributed applications
 - Central station solar
 - 1MW+ photovoltaic plants
 - Concentrating solar power (CSP)



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Networking, cont. - examples

- Solar Power Conference and Expo
- Monthly Conference Calls
- Technical and Policy Email Discussion Groups
- Regional Workshops



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Information

- Utility Resource Library
- Bi-Weekly Electronic Newsletter
- Email News Alerts
- Seminars via Teleconference
- Distribution of Topical Reports and Industry Analysis



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Policy/Regulation Tracking

- MOU with solar industry lobbying association (SEIA)
 - Allows for timely sharing of information about proposed/new solar policies and regulations affecting utilities
- Clearinghouse of information about federal and state level activities



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Upcoming Projects/Activities

- Solar Program Options Tool (SPOT)
- Utility Peer Match Service
- Online Data Repository
- Analysis of Data Available in Repository
- Utility Agreed-Upon PV Valuation Methodology



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- 2-for-1 utility employee registration deal
- Free pre-conference workshop for utilities



www.SolarPowerConference.com



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A few comments from SEPA's utility members...

"SEPA has been the vehicle to provide us with insights into the value of PV, and through our membership we have made many invaluable contacts in the solar industry to help us plan for, and deliver, what many of our customers desire."

- *Carl Siegrist, Senior Renewable Energy Strategist, We Energies.*

"SEPA has done an excellent job of identifying and responding to the needs of utilities participating in or with the solar industry. Their programs and services are tailored to bridge the gap between utilities (and utility customers) who want to go solar, and the industry that wants to provide products and solutions. For utilities that are exploring solar energy as part of their portfolio, SEPA's organization, networking opportunities, and forums for the exchange of lessons learned is unmatched."

- *Jon Bertolino, Superintendent, Renewable Generation Assets, Sacramento Municipal Utility District*



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Federal Tax Credits Update

- S 2677 / HR 5206, Securing America's Energy Independence Act, is primary House and Senate vehicle
 - 8 - year extension
 - Make the credit usable under the AMT
 - Raise the residential cap to \$2,000 / kW
- At least ½ dozen other energy/tax bills, all include extension of credits



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Tax Credits, cont.

- SEIA says with almost 100% certainty that solar tax credits will be extended before they expire at end of 2007
 - Will not be direct result of any current piece of legislation, but rather part of a fast-moving, low-cost energy tax package assembled by committee chairs
 - Extension may not bring total years to 10, but more likely 6 - 8



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Tax Credits, cont.

- Utility exclusion
 - Removal of exclusion under consideration in some circles on Capital Hill
 - Will depend entirely on cost to allow utilities to use the credits
 - If cost is so high that it makes the whole solar tax credits section of the bill unacceptable, exclusion will remain
 - If cost is determined to be acceptable, exclusion could be removed
- Do utilities WANT to use the credits???
 - Answer currently appears mixed



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