

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Solar Instructor  
Training Network

Southeast Region

This newsletter is produced by the Southeast Solar Training Network (SSTN) for the purpose of supplying solar-related news to our educational and energy office partners. The information presented is from public websites such as the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC), the Solar Instructor Training Network (SITN) and general energy related websites.

We hope you find this information useful.

## 1. IREC Clean Energy Training Directory

The Interstate Renewable Energy Council's Clean Energy Training Directory offers users the ability to find educational institutions that offer solar related training programs. This includes universities, community colleges, vocational intuitions, etc. The Directory is easy to use and offers the ability to select specific states as well as technologies. We have asked all SSTN partners to access the site and to include their programs. Please check to see whether your institution is listed and if not, spend a few minutes highlighting your activities. It's a simple and painless process. The end result could increase your registration as well as promote your program.

<http://www.irecusa.org/training-directory/>

## 2. President Obama says every four minutes, another home or business goes solar

"It's not just oil and natural gas production that's booming; we're becoming a global leader in solar, too," Obama said. "Every four minutes, another American home or business goes solar; every panel pounded into place by a worker whose job can't be outsourced."

<http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2014/jan/29/barack-obama/obama-says-every-four-minutes-another-american-hom/>

## 3. Solar power was 2<sup>nd</sup> largest source of new power in US in 2013... Or maybe 1st?

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has released its final 2013 Energy Infrastructure Update for the United States. The new FERC report shows that solar power was the second-largest source of new U.S. power capacity last year. However, FERC's numbers for solar are actually

## Upcoming Training

**Florida Solar Energy Center,  
Cocoa, FL**

**Installing Photovoltaic Systems**  
[July 14-18, 2014]

**Solar Water Heating Systems**  
[March 4-6, 2014]

For more course details, visit  
<http://ce.fsec.ucf.edu/>

## Contact Us

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a gross underestimate of actual solar power additions. The following article tells you why after first going through FERC's key findings.

<http://www.treehugger.com/renewable-energy/solar-power-was-2nd-largest-source-new-power-us-2013.html>

#### **4. Solar jobs attracting industry veterans**

The Solar Foundation (TSF) has released its fourth annual National Solar Jobs Census, which found that the U.S. solar industry employed 142,698 Americans in 2013, including the addition of 23,682 solar jobs over the previous year -- a 19.9 percent growth in employment since September 2012.

"The solar industry's job-creating power is clear," said Andrea Luecke, executive director and president of The Solar Foundation. "The industry has grown an astounding 53 percent in the last four years alone, adding nearly 50,000 jobs.

Solar employers expect to add another 22,000 jobs in 2014. By comparison, the fossil fuel electric generation sector shrank by more than 8,500 jobs, or 8.7 percent, and jobs in coal mining grew by just 0.25 percent during the same period, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Employment Survey.

<http://www.fierceenergy.com/story/solar-jobs-attracting-industry-veterans/2014-01-27>

#### **5. In the Southeast, solar triggers sea change for electric business models**

While other regions around the country used tax breaks, mandates or a free-market business model to capitalize on renewable energy, the Southeast utilities and their policymakers used to talk about alternative fuels with a lot of "ifs," "ands" or "buts." Renewable fuels make up about 2 percent of the Southeast region's energy mix as a result.

That percentage is poised to grow -- though it's unclear to what amount -- because of cracks in the Southeast's rigid regulatory foundation that have allowed some light in the form of solar power to shine through. Falling costs of solar and environmental regulations are some reasons. Other ones are mounting bipartisan political, shareholder and consumer pressure on utilities to add more solar to the power grid.

<http://www.eenews.net/stories/1059993450>

#### **6. Natural Gas Loses to Solar on Costs, A First**

For those who already think natural gas will win out over renewable power, a judge has said, not so fast. In what may be the first time a U.S. solar power project has been declared cost-competitive against natural gas in a competitive bidding process, a judge has said solar is cheaper than natural gas. The ruling could be a road map for avoiding a new fossil fuel age dominated by big natural gas.

On the last day of 2013, an administrative law judge for the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, Eric Lipman, issued a decision about competing energy investments for Minnesota's future. The state utility Xcel offered up several proposals to fill a 100 megawatt power need. The two main competitors were a new fossil fuel plant powered by natural gas and a series of many distributed solar projects to be built around the state, the so-called Geronimo \$250 million solar proposal.

This decision wrestled with competing visions of the U.S. energy future. Will it be dominated by new, large fossil fuel plants powered not by coal but by natural gas, as gas continues to replace coal - even though gas still emits significant greenhouse gas emissions?

[See the decision.](#)

## **7. Seven Reasons to Love Electric Cars**

There has been an increased interest in electric vehicles by the US Departments of Transportation and Energy. EVs provide environmental benefits, curb our reliance on oil and, important to us in the solar field, can be hooked up to solar panels. See the site below for additional reasons that EVs make sense in the new technological age. This site also provides a wealth of additional information on EVs.

<http://evobsession.com/7-reasons-to-love-electric-cars/>

## **8. Is 2014 the Year of the Fuel Cell Car?**

Major automakers suggest that cars powered by hydrogen fuel cells will finally hit the road this year

For almost two decades, fuel-cell electric vehicles have been another five years away. That is, until now, according to major automakers. Hyundai Motor Company announced in November 2013 that it will begin offering a fuel-cell version of the Tucson crossover this coming spring, making it the first mass-market, federally certified hydrogen fuel-cell vehicle in the United States. [Revolve Eco-Rally/Flickr](#)

Steady advances in fuel-cell technology, new opportunities for hydrogen production and a growing commitment to building hydrogen infrastructure have led many major automakers to believe "this is the moment" for the next generation of hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles, said Mike O'Brien, vice president of product and corporate planning for Hyundai.

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/is-2014-the-year-of-the-fuel-cell-car/>



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