

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.

## 1. US Solar Market Trends Report

Solar installations accounted for 31 percent of all electric power installations in 2013. It is always interesting, however, to look at public data for insight into why and how – what the trends and challenges are – the drivers of the growing solar markets. After collecting and analyzing available data for the seventh year, as author of IREC's recently published U.S. Solar Market Trends 2013, the answer is quite clearly a combination of factors.

[See report](#)

## Upcoming Training

**Florida Solar Energy Center**  
Cocoa, FL

**Installing Photovoltaic Systems**  
[November 3-7, 2014]

**Solar Water Heating Systems**  
[October 21-23, 2014]

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

**PV System Design and  
Commissioning Workshop**  
Hosted at Southface Energy  
Institute, Atlanta, GA  
[November 12-13, 2014]  
For more information contact  
JoAnn Stirling at

## 2. Solar Content Integration Document available

In developing and expanding the solar workforce, the question arises as to whether it is better to educate and train “solar specialists,” or it is better to provide supplemental solar knowledge and add-on skills to more traditional occupations. Focus group meetings held by both IREC and the Florida Solar Energy Center have shown that, by a two-to-one margin, industry representatives feel that the added-skills approach is the best strategy at the present time— or at least until there is greater certainty about the demand for solar energy.

This document examines options for educating and training individuals by integrating or infusing solar content into existing education and training programs. Options will be considered for a variety of solar occupations due to the current heavy dependency of solar markets and related solar jobs on federal, state, and utility policies. The recommended approach provides the needed instruction, while minimizing the effects of market volatility and job

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This e-newsletter is published by the Florida Solar Energy Center – a research institute of the University of Central Florida – while under contract with the U.S. Department of Energy.

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uncertainty.

See document at <http://www.irecusa.org/publications/best-practices-4-solar-content-integration/>

### **3. White House Highlights New SunShot Measures to Advance Renewable Energy Deployment**

Building on the President’s Climate Action Plan and the Administration’s effort to diversify our energy portfolio and cut energy waste, last week the Energy Department announced a series of executive actions to expand the deployment of renewable energy and cut greenhouse gas emissions. Altogether, these measures will bring the U.S. closer to its clean energy future, while protecting the environment and helping Americans save money by saving energy. [See the White House announcement](#) and read below to learn more about the SunShot efforts highlighted in the White House fact sheet.

### **4. New Interagency Solar Website Now Live**

The SunShot Initiative launched a new website to help chip away at solar soft costs like interconnection, permitting, and financing. The new website, Solar Powering America, provides easy access to a variety of resources from agencies throughout the federal government to encourage solar deployment, including funding programs, best practices, and interactive tools and data sets.

[Visit Solar Powering America today.](#)

### **5. The Solar Foundation Highlights Solar Cost-Savings for U.S. Schools**

The Solar Foundation last week released a SunShot-funded report exploring how U.S. schools are choosing solar to lower their energy costs and lower their carbon footprint. The report found that thousands of schools already are cutting their energy bills by choosing solar – using savings to pay for teachers and textbooks – and estimates that more than 70,000 additional schools could do the same.

[Learn more.](#)

### **6. New Effort to Train Skilled Veterans, Drive Solar Deployment**

Record-breaking growth in the solar industry over the past few years is driving high demand for skilled solar workers. To connect skilled veterans to the clean energy industry, SunShot’s Solar

Instructor Training Network (SITN) is launching a pilot job training program for veterans at up to three military bases this fall. The network aims to connect talented veterans with SITN's extensive network of more than 400 community college-based solar training institutions.

[Learn more about SITN](#) and stay tuned for updates about this pilot training program.

## **7. Webinar - Institute for Building Technology & Safety PV Quality Data**

**October 8, 2014, 2:00pm-3:00pm EST**

Real-time trends in solar PV installation deficiencies are becoming an important aspect of the industry. In this webinar, Christopher Doyle and Rudolph Saporite, both with the Institute for Building Technology and Safety (IBTS), will discuss quality assurance data collected by IBTS national field inspection services. Doyle and Saporite will reveal real-time trends in solar PV installation deficiencies so trainers can emphasize these areas in future training. The webinar will focus on the data analysis of approximately 2,000 nationwide, inspected systems in the past year.

IBTS provides Solar PV QA inspections for the largest Solar as a Service firms in the nation: Clean Power Finance, Sunrun, OneRoof Energy, Kilowatt Financial, SunEdison and NRG. IBTS works with each of these providers to develop and provide quality assurance programs through onsite field inspections of installed solar PV systems. These inspections consist of a post-installation inspection for code compliance, best practices and quality of installation, along with a shade analysis report. IBTS currently performs approximately 250 inspections per month, with 25 technical field inspectors in over 15 states.

[Register for the webinar](#)

## **8. Clean Energy Training Directory**

Has your educational institution been listed in the national Clean Energy Training Directory? Many students looking for solar and other energy related programs use this directory to determine what is available in their geographical area.

It is quite simple to register your school and program. To do so, go to <http://www.irecusa.org/training-directory/>

**9. Kennebec Valley Community College in Fairfield, Maine will be hosting an on-line IREC Credentialing Pathway course that will be free of charge to SSTN training partners – this means you.**

This online course will introduce solar PV instructors to the value, standards and process involved with [Interstate Renewable Energy Council \(IREC\) credentialing](#). There are two types of IREC credentials; accreditation for solar PV training programs and certification for instructors. The final outcome of this course requires each instructor trainee to draft a proposed credentialing pathway for their solar PV training program and/or solar PV instructor. All partner instructor trainees seeking to obtain IREC credentialing for their solar PV training program or instructor will benefit from this course.

It is the nature of online courses to allow flexibility for students to take as much time as desired to learn the course content. Actual contact time will vary for different students.

Interested parties for this course should contact Amy Hudnor at [ahudnor@kvcc.me.edu](mailto:ahudnor@kvcc.me.edu) or (207) 453-5813.



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