

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 — FALL 2010

Southeast Regional Training Provider

Florida Solar Energy Center

The Florida Solar Energy Center (FSEC), with more than 30 years of training experience in solar energy, leads the collaborative effort with its Southeast partners to expand upon FSEC's long term model of alternative energy training programs. Planned activities include:

- Develop and disseminate model curricula and training materials
- Incorporate lessons learned and best practices
- Increase the capacity of educational providers to train students and workers in photovoltaics (PV) and solar water heating (SWH)
- Provide regional forums regarding solar training issues and industry/workforce trends.



Photo: Nicholas Waters, FSEC

During a train-the-trainer event at the Florida Solar Energy Center, participants learn installation details about solar water heating.

Solar Instructor Training Network — Southeast Region

The Southeast Region of the Solar Instructor Training Network is one of nine regional resource and training providers funded by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to address critical needs for high-quality, local, and accessible training in solar system design, installation and inspection. The network will train educational instructors in photovoltaics (PV) and solar water heating (SWH) from institutions designated by the Energy Offices in nine partner states and territories. The trained instructors will then conduct training in PV and SWH at their educational institutions, creating a geographic network of solar training programs across the southeastern U.S.

This five-year program is led by the Florida Solar Energy Center. Partner states and territories include: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, U. S. Virgin Islands and Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

These partners will enable a rapid scale-up of state-based local training programs by providing community colleges and other institutions with replicable training materials, models and instructional support. The training involves classroom instructions, as well as demonstration and hands-on learning.

Through this effort, DOE creates sustainable jobs within the solar installation industry and accelerates market adoption of solar technologies by ensuring that high-quality installations are standard.

Upcoming Training

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

Photovoltaics —
October 25-28, 2010

Solar Water Heating and Cooling —
November 8-10, 2010

Atlanta, GA:

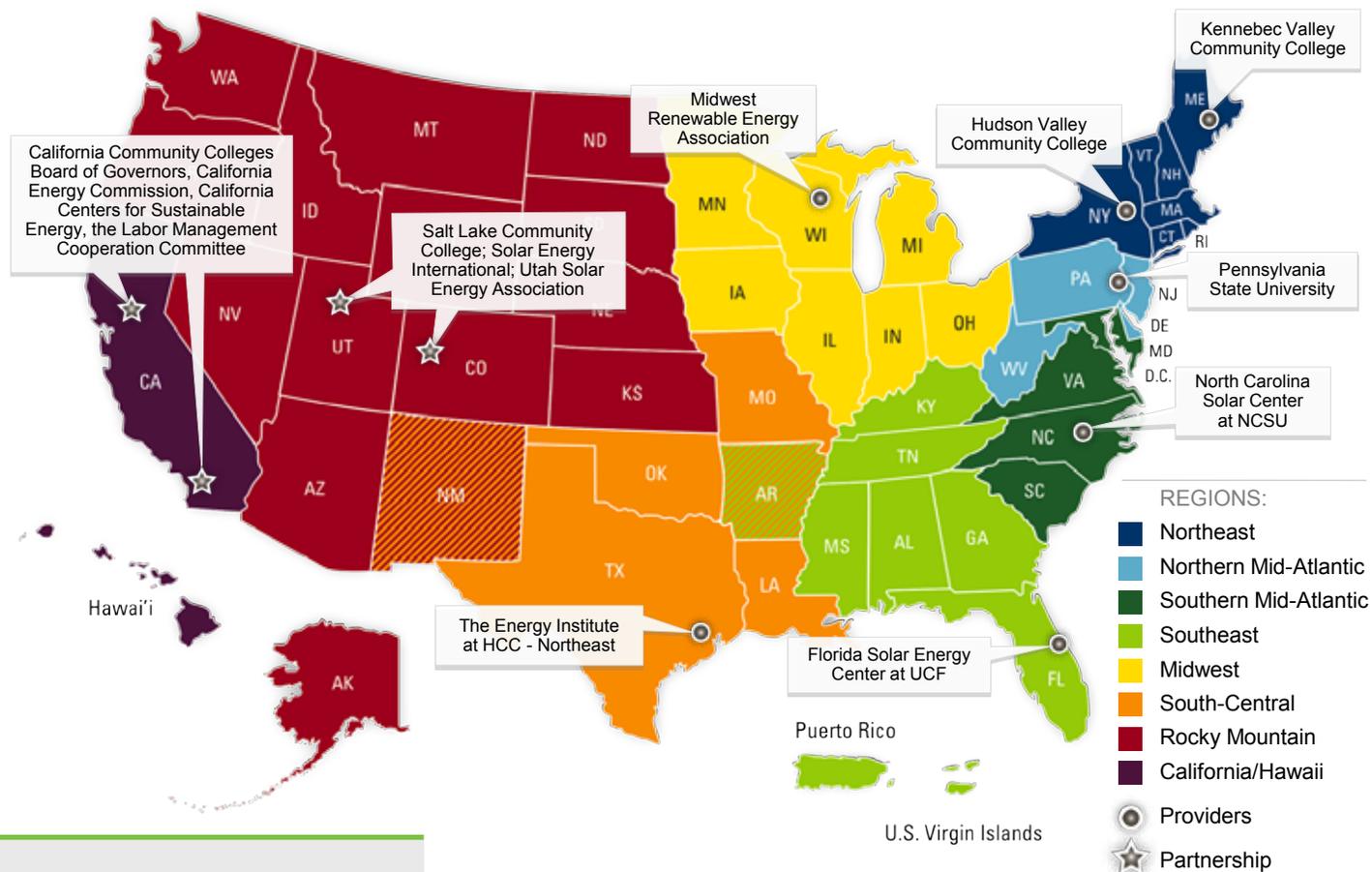
Photovoltaics —
Spring 2011

For more course details, contact your state partner or JoAnn Stirling at joann@fsec.ucf.edu or 321-638-1015.

National Solar Instructor Training Network

8 Regions, 9 Regional Resource and Training Providers

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY** | Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy



Solar Instructor Training Network — Southeast Region Newsletter

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DOE Announces the Selection of the National Administrator for the Solar Instructor Training Network

August 25, 2010 —

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced that the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) will serve as the National Administrator for the Solar Instructor Training Network (SITN) to help ensure the development of a robust national solar training infrastructure, which can meet the employment needs of a rapidly growing domestic solar industry. IREC will receive up to \$4.5 million of funding over five years to administer the program. Through the work of the Training Network, DOE expects over 1,400 instructors will be trained across the nation, creating the capacity to train thousands of workers for the solar installation industry.

See the press release at:

http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts.cfm/pa_id=390

Future Directions

September 2010 —

The past few months have been extremely busy. A total of 72 individuals have received training in three separate train-the-trainer programs — 42 in solar water heating and cooling, and 30 in PV. Two future programs now have scheduled dates and planning has begun on holding a PV training program in the Atlanta region next spring.

As a result of the 72 trained individuals, one of the program's next steps is to obtain information on the application of the training and the resulting programs planned for offering at each of the partnering community colleges, universities and/or trade schools. The southeast team, working closely with Ms. Liz Cochran of Alabama, has developed a Post-Training Summary Evaluation Questionnaire to be used to obtain this data. At present, the questionnaire is being implemented in Alabama, but future plans will use the questionnaire throughout the Southeast.

Southeast Region Partner States and Territories

Alabama – Energy Division

<http://www.adeca.state.al.us/Energy/default.aspx>

Contact: Liz Cochran Liz.cochran@adeca.alabama.gov

Arkansas Economic Development Commission – Arkansas Energy Office

<http://arkansasedc.com/>

Contact: J.D. Lowery jlowery@arkansasedc.com

Florida – Florida Energy Office

http://myfloridaclimate.com/climate_quick_links/florida_energy_climate_commission

Contact: Matt Stamatoff Matthew.Stamatoff@eog.myflorida.com

Georgia – Southface, Atlanta, GA

<http://www.southface.org/>

Contact: Adam West awest@southface.org

Kentucky – Division of Renewable Energy, Department for Energy Development & Independence

<http://energy.ky.gov/Pages/KentucrebatekyEnergyEfficientApplianceRebateProgram.aspx>

Contact: Kate Shanks kate.shanks@ky.gov

Mississippi Development Authority – Energy Division

<http://www.mississippi.org/index.php?id=4>

Contact: Terrence Spears tspears@mississippi.org

Tennessee – Dept. of Economic & Community Development, Energy Policy Section

http://www.state.tn.us/ecd/CD_energy.html

Contact: Brian Hensley brian.hensley@tn.gov

Puerto Rico – Energy Affairs Administration

<http://www.aae.gobierno.pr/>

Contact: Alex Miranda,
amiranda@aae.gobierno.pr

U. S. Virgin Islands – Energy Office - Office of the Governor

<http://www.vienergy.org/index.html>

Contact: Christopher Frederick, cfrederick@vienergy.org

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I, as an individual, get solar training?

Training of individuals is not part of the Southeast Solar Training Network at the present time. The training offered is train-the-trainer for faculty or instructors at educational institutions. At a later time, as the network becomes established, the local institution will offer training for individuals.

Where can I find solar training institutions in the Southeast?

The Web site listed below provides the names of the educational institutions that FSEC has trained in solar technologies.

http://www.fsec.ucf.edu/en/education/southeast_training_network/partners.html

Where can I find national training institutions?

The national program training centers are located at

http://www1.eere.energy.gov/solar/instructor_training_network.html

Does this program offer training for energy efficiency, green technologies and wind?

At this time, this program does not cover any training in these technologies. The training covered by this program is photovoltaics and solar water heating and cooling.

Training Programs Offered

The Southeast Solar Training Network has recently offered three training programs – two in Solar Water Heating (SWH) and one in Photovoltaics (PV).

Solar Water Heating Course

The solar water heating train-the-trainer course was offered at FSEC on May 11-13 and August 17-19, 2010.

Course material included both lectures and laboratory experiments. In addition, an extensive list of solar-related teaching and presentation materials was given to each student. Discussion topics during lunch included instructional methods, licensing and certification, and options for training courses at individual institutions.

Attendees of the three-day workshop included representatives from the following institutions (number of trained individuals):

Alabama

- Winston County Technical (1)
- Calhoun Community College (2)
- H. Councill Trenholm State Technical College (1)

Arkansas

- Northwest Arkansas Community College (2)
- Pulaski Technical College (1)

Florida

- Brevard Community College (1)
- Broward County Public Schools (4)
- Broward College (1)
- College of Central Florida (1)
- Gainesville Job Corps (1)
- Middleton High School (1)
- RCARVA Electric (1)
- Tallahassee Community College (2)
- Technical Education Center – Osceola (1)
- Santa Fe College (2)
- State College of Florida (1)
- Withlacoochee Technical Institute (1)

Georgia

- DeKalb Technical College (2)
- Gwinnett Technical College (2)
- Moultrie Technical College (2)
- Southface Energy Institute (1)

Kentucky

- Jefferson Community & Technical College (1)
- Madisonville Community College (1)
- Mountain Association for Community Economic Development, Inc. (1)
- Owensboro Community & Technical College (2)

Mississippi

- Mississippi Development Authority (1)
- Mississippi Energy Development Consortium (2)

Puerto Rico

- Energy Affairs Administration (2)

U.S. Virgin Islands

- Virgin Islands Energy Office (1)

Arkansas

- Northwest Arkansas Community College (2)
- University of Arkansas (2)
- Arkansas Construction Education Foundation (1)
- Pulaski Technical College (1)

Florida

- Island Coast High School (1)
- Lyman High School (1)
- College of Central Florida (1)

Georgia

- DeKalb Technical College (2)
- Gwinnett Technical College (2)

Kentucky

- Jefferson Community and Technical College (1)
- Madisonville Technical College (1)
- JD Patton Area Technology Center (1)

Puerto Rico

- Energy Affairs Administration (2)

U.S. Virgin Islands

- University of the Virgin Islands (2)
- Virgin Islands Energy Office (1)
- St. Croix Career and Technical Education Center (1)

Photovoltaics Course

A train-the-trainer PV course was given at FSEC on June 28 – July 1, 2010. Course material was covered in both lectures and laboratory experiments and an extensive list of photovoltaic-related teaching and presentation materials was provided to each student.

Attendees of the four-day workshop included representatives from the following institutions:

Alabama

- Northwest Shoals Community College (1)
- Shelton State Community College (1)
- H. Councill Trenholm State Technical College (1)
- Tuskegee University (1)
- Calhoun Community College (4)