



CICV Solar Updates

March 2017

Upcoming Workshops & Community Engagement Opportunities

CICV will be hosting several workshops in 2017, focusing on how colleges and universities can help their surrounding communities become more solar-friendly. Now in the last year of our grant program, we will also be working with participating colleges to prepare an online “how-to” guide for collaborative solar procurement. To participate in the development of these workshops and/or the online guide, email

1 Lora Toothman at lora@cicv.org

RFP Update

After CICV announced the preferred vendor for the first Solar RFP on September 27, 2016, the vendor and colleges quickly began individual negotiations, and the first contracts were signed in December 2016. As of March 31, 2017, three colleges had signed contracts for a total of 662 kW, and two more were in active negotiations for an additional 2.2 mW. Several other colleges were in preliminary stages of negotiation. We expect construction on the first arrays to begin in summer 2017.

While negotiations for contracts from the first RFP are ongoing, CICV has begun planning the second RFP, which will be released at the end of the second quarter of 2017.

Reminder: Material from Previous Workshops Available Online

Material from CICV’s workshops can be found at <http://commons.marymount.edu/cicvsola/>.



March 23 Workshop

The CICV Solar Market Pathways program held its first workshop of 2017, “Promoting Solar Energy Adoption in Virginia: How Higher Education Partnerships, Technical Assistance, and Innovative Financing Can Help Your Community Adopt Solar Energy,” on March 23, 2017 at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia.

Dr. Mary Christiansen, Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Minnesota Duluth, and Mindy Granley, Sustainability Director at the same institution, delivered an in-depth presentation on UMD’s robust student involvement in solar energy. Dr. Christiansen has incorporated sustainable energy and solar energy into the curriculum of one of her courses, and described student projects with community partners that included designs for solar arrays for several Duluth businesses. Mindy Granley discussed student volunteer efforts on and off campus involving solar energy adoption in the Duluth area.

Following the University of Minnesota Duluth’s presentation, Daniel Farrell of the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy discussed a recent Department of Energy grant the Commonwealth of Virginia received to promote the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program. The PACE program helps promote energy efficiency and sustainability by allowing local governments “when authorized by state law, to fund the up-front cost of energy improvements on commercial and residential properties, which are paid back over time by the property owners (<https://energy.gov/eere/slsc/property-assessed-clean-energy-programs>).”

The final presentation was delivered by the Solar Foundation’s James Schroll, who talked about the Solar Foundation’s SolSmart program, a national initiative to encourage local solar energy development. Charlottesville, Virginia is one of 30 cities nationwide participating in the program, and is actively working toward national SolSmart designation by implementing solar-friendly policies and programs.



From our Principle Investigator...

The last year of CICV's Solar Market Pathways program has gotten off to a successful start with the signing of contracts totaling 662 kW of solar energy at Virginia Private Colleges through our first solar RFP, and our first solar workshop at Washington and Lee University.

As negotiations with several colleges continue through Spring 2017, CICV is preparing for the second solar RFP. This RFP should be advertised by the end of June 2017.

Our first workshop of 2017, which took place on March 23 at Washington and Lee University, was an excellent start to the year. Over the spring and summer, we will be working with Solar Market Pathways colleges to plan two more workshops addressing solar-readiness, community engagement, and the online solar guide we are producing to document our lessons learned.

We look forward to working with our partners on the successful conclusion of our Solar Market Pathways project.

Robert



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