



# CICV Solar Updates

December 2015

## Thank You!

The solar teams at all of our schools and our stakeholders have worked extremely hard to push our project forward. The RFP issued on November 16 showcases your efforts.

This RFP is a clear demonstration of our great team's commitment to solar energy and a giant step toward our ultimate goal of 30 MW installed capacity on our campuses by 2020. It is a great achievement to have passed this benchmark, and it will be very exciting to receive and review the bids that come in. Thanks for your dedication, leadership, and hard work.

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) ISSUED NOVEMBER 16

Last month we issued our first solar RFP to an extensive network of solar developers and industry stakeholders. We are excited about the significant level of interest expressed through the Request for Qualifications (RFQs) phase and expect to receive some competitive bids.

Now that solar developers have conducted site walks at each campus, the next step is for the bidders to submit their proposals by January 22, 2016. We anticipate needing one month to fully evaluate, score, and select winning proposals. We look forward to your participating on the CICV Selection Committee.

### **NEXT STEPS**

**Bidders' Proposals Due:** January 22nd

**Selection Committee Conference Calls:** February 2-4

**Expected Date of Bidder Selection(s):** February 29

According to SEIA, the Commonwealth currently has 15 MW of solar installed to date. If all sites included in the RFP are constructed, it would more than double that number. This showcases the tremendous role our project will play in the future of solar generation in Virginia!



Photos from Washington and Lee University

## Briefs

### **APCo Rate Case**

The Virginia State Corporation Commission continues to deliberate in the case of an Application of Appalachian Power Company for approval of its “Renewable Generation Purchase Program.” The Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia participated in this case pro se. Optony’s Tyler Espinoza and Ferrum’s Chris Burnley both testified. We will keep you apprised of developments.

### **Good News: Extension of ITC**

The Consolidated Appropriations Act recently passed by Congress and signed by President Obama includes a three year extension of the 30% solar investment tax credit (ITC). The Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) predicts that this extension will help add 220,000 jobs by 2020 nationally and cut emissions by 100 million metric tons. For CICV’s solar project, this extension can allow bidders and colleges flexibility to complete solar installations at a more deliberate pace, with little or no financial penalty.

### **Reminder: Material from Previous Workshops Available Online**

Material from the most recent workshop, held at Marymount University on September 11 can be found at <http://commons.marymount.edu/cicv/mu-round-table/>. The Optony maintained website contains the slideshows from the May 22 workshop, held at Eastern Mennonite University, <http://my.solarroadmap.com/ahj/smp-icv/view>. Planning is currently underway for our Spring 2016 workshop.

### **Internships**

Associate Professor Doug Seidler of Marymount University continues to explore internship opportunities for students of CICV member colleges and universities. We encourage members of our advisory panel to alert us and Doug at [dseidler@marymount.edu](mailto:dseidler@marymount.edu) of any opportunities that might be relevant to our project and of interest to our students.

### **Come to February 1 General Assembly Day**

Since many of our colleges and universities will have students and faculty in Richmond for Thanks for Tuition Assistance Grant (“TAG”) Day on February 1, we will be incorporating an additional solar briefing at noon into the day’s agenda. Speakers are expected from Dominion Virginia Power, American Electric Power, Sierra Club, and MDV Solar Energy Industries Association. This event is open to participants from all CICV schools. The purpose of this event is to help students learn about energy issues coming before the General Assembly and explore careers in government relations. Details to follow.



## E&H Fosters Broad-Based Input

Written by Dirk Wilmoth

As a participant in the CICV Solar Market Pathways Collaboration, Emory & Henry College employed broad-based campus involvement in vetting prospective solar installations on its historic campus situated along I-81 in Emory, VA.

Key players included the senior administrative team and the Climate Working Group, consisting of administrators, faculty, students, and community members. The Climate Working Group was formed in 2008 to advise the design and implementation of the President's Climate Action Plan and annual greenhouse gas inventories, monitor Jessie B. duPont Fund, and other initiatives. Its most sizable initiative to date has been to allocate green revolving funds to finance a 26.4kW Solar PV project for WEHC, the first solar-powered radio station in the southeast.

When the Solar Feasibility Assessment Report for Emory & Henry was received in early October, it was circulated among the Climate Working Group, with an invitation to attend the October 19 discussion by CICV staff and Optony of the final report immediately after the Working Group's scheduled monthly meeting. This juxtaposition facilitated interest and attendance. An attendance sheet was passed around so that the participants' time could be included in Emory & Henry's cost share effort when appropriate. After the Optony presentation, the group was asked to comment on the options verbally and by email, and the consensus was that there was some anxiety about ground installations because of the historic nature of the campus. Instead, the group endorsed the bid alternate plan for a solar farm along I-81, because of its visibility to 35,000 passing vehicles each day, and, as proposed, it could more than offset the College's carbon footprint. This recommendation was passed on to the senior leadership team, which concurred with this conclusion.

This broad-based process appears to be a readily replicable model for fostering effective campus involvement in solar array placement decisions, while helping also to meet the college's expectations for cost sharing. E&H looks forward to receiving and evaluating bids for developing its solar farm site in the next steps of the RFP process.

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**CICV Solar Market Pathways**  
**Sharing our inspired stories**

## Efforts by Marymount Communication and Design

Written with information provided by Barry Erdeljon

We would like to spotlight some students at Marymount University who are doing great work for the project. These students are Media Design majors, and their efforts on behalf of our project offer them a great opportunity to build their portfolios with some meaningful work product. One of their excellent products is the design layout of this newsletter, and they have also created, and continue to maintain, our project's website. In the coming months, these students will migrate the information that is currently on the Optony maintained website for our project to the Marymount website, so we have one comprehensive website. They will also work with our schools to facilitate the telling of each college and university's story regarding sustainability and renewable energy via this website. Some of the Marymount Media Design students participated in the September 11 Curriculum Enhancement roundtable and created the logo in the upper right corner of this page.

According to Associate Professor Barry Erdeljon, working with CICV on the Solar Market Pathways effort is in keeping with the Marymount Department of Communication and Media Design's hallmark of working on environmental and social justice projects. Through their efforts, the Department strives for the betterment of the community.

Providing communication support services for our solar project earns the students valuable experience and allows the CICV solar project to effectively communicate with stakeholders. It is a major goal of Solar Market Pathways to share information and help others to replicate our successes. The work of these Marymount Media Design students is crucial to accomplish this goal effectively.

You can read more about Media Design at [http://www.marymount.edu/Academics/School-of-Arts-Sciences/Undergraduate-Programs/Graphic-Design-\(B-A-\).](http://www.marymount.edu/Academics/School-of-Arts-Sciences/Undergraduate-Programs/Graphic-Design-(B-A-).)

"The work of these Marymount Media Design students is crucial"

# Teach-In Planned for April

written by Valerie Banschbach at Roanoke College

At the September 11 CICV Solar Market Pathways workshop at Marymount University, I shared information about the first annual Roanoke College Climate Change Teach-In, held in March of 2015. Several faculty attendees expressed interest in participating in a coordinated CICV/Solar Grant College Teach-In, and some of you who represent non-profit organizations expressed a willingness to present information at the Teach-In. The form of the Teach-in can be tailored to faculty interests at each school. A traditional teach-in would involve a drop-in session of faculty in one campus location sharing their knowledge about climate change and its impacts; all students would be encouraged to come to this central location, listen and discuss. At Roanoke College, our teach-in will be distributed over existing classes, rather than centralized, as we will ask all faculty at the College to consider re-directing the focus of their classes toward a topic related to climate change on at least one of two consecutive dates, a Wednesday and a Thursday. The two consecutive dates will allow those teaching MWF schedules and those teaching TTH schedules to participate. In order to maximize participation of faculty, we'd like to **announce dates by January 8**, for inclusion in Spring semester syllabi. The dates we are tentatively planning on are Wednesday, April 6, and Thursday, April 7. These dates precede a nationwide event meant to engage students in dialog with their state energy regulators, officials and peers, around the Clean Power Plan, in the "Power Dialog," sponsored by the Bard Center for Environmental Policy, <http://www.bard.edu/cep/powerdialog/>. In Virginia, the Power Dialog will take place at the University of Richmond on Friday, April 8. Besides the meeting between students and state energy regulators, there will be a poster session held at University of Richmond, for which students may present environmentally related work.

If you are interested in holding a Climate Change Teach-In at your institution, or if you are a member of a non-profit organization who would like to participate in a Teach-In, please be in touch with me, Dr. Valerie Banschbach, at [banschbach@roanoke.edu](mailto:banschbach@roanoke.edu). I am interested in determining how many other schools will hold teach-ins, sharing resources and ideas for coordination, and finding out if the April 6 and 7 dates will work for others. I will also pass along more information about the Power Dialog and accompanying poster session for students from Virginia colleges.



Valerie Banschbach speaking at the September 11 workshop held at Marymount University



Eldon Kurtz

## Eldon Kurtz Spoke at Solar Focus 2015

On November 17, Eldon Kurtz, Physical Plant Director at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, spoke at “Solar Focus 2015: Resiliency for the Future” in Washington, D.C., an annual policy event hosted by MDV-SEIA. Eldon spoke regarding Customer-Driven Resilient Solutions. This panel focused on the commercial solar market (100kW to 5 MW) and discussed the value of commercial projects in terms of resiliency, such as peak demand shaving and supporting mission critical functions. Eldon discussed our Solar Market Pathways project and our recently distributed Request for Proposals. Additionally, the Solar Focus conference program that was distributed to attendees contained a full page advertisement for our RFP.

In his role at EMU, Eldon applies his nearly forty years of experience in the construction, maintenance and operation of facilities. He has long been an advocate for energy conservation, efficiency and sustainability. Additionally, Eldon is himself a graduate of Eastern Mennonite University.



Hartzler Library, Eastern Mennonite University



Also Hartzler Library

## Basecamp

Basecamp is an excellent collection of resources regarding solar energy and our sister Solar Market Pathways projects. Resources are divided into three groups, pertaining to particular topics:

- Community Solar,
- Resilient Solar, and
- Solar for Colleges and Universities.

Organizers often post useful resources in these groups that might be of benefit to faculty and students at our schools. One of the most beneficial resources is the frequent webinars, some recent topics have included:

- Harnessing Collective Buying Power to Procure Solar,
- Renewable Energy Certificates and Universities, and
- Solar and Storage Fire Safety.

Basecamp is maintained by the Institute for Sustainable Communities on behalf of the Department of Energy. If faculty or students at any CICV school interested in solar power would like to have viewing capabilities on Basecamp, please email Connor at [connor.cicv@gmail.com](mailto:connor.cicv@gmail.com).

# Getting to Know...

## Connor Kain



**Connor Kain**  
Project Coordinator  
CICV

Connor Kain came on board at CICV on October 14 as Project Coordinator for our Solar Market Pathways project. In this role, he will work closely with our colleges and other stakeholders to realize the benefits of this project. Specifically, he will help coordinate communication efforts including this newsletter and our project website, maintain a filing system for project documents, help administer the grant to assist schools that participate in the Dominion pilot PPA program, assist with cost share responsibilities, and help our schools create teaching opportunities and engage with local communities. Connor will work in coordination with Carol Wampler to ensure the success of our project in accomplishing our goals. He looks forward to corresponding with and meeting you all. To contact him, feel free to email [connor.cicv@gmail.com](mailto:connor.cicv@gmail.com).

A graduate of the College of William & Mary and DePaul University College of Law, Connor previously worked on corporate law matters for a South Carolina based firm. He has long had an interest in renewable energy matters, particularly after an internship with Carol at the DEQ in the summer of 2011. Born and raised in the Richmond area, Connor lives in Midlothian with his wife and Chihuahua-mix.



CICV

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