



CICV Solar Updates

July 2016

Save the Date

On Wednesday, September 14, 2016, CICV will be hosting a workshop on jobs in the solar industry for interested students, career services directors, and staff at Lynchburg College. This workshop will cover the current state of employment in the solar industry and a forecast of what's to come in the next five-ten years. Industry leaders will discuss opportunities in the field, and what they're looking for in new hires. For more information and to attend, email Lora Toothman, lora@cicv.org

RFP Update

The CICV Solar RFP process is wrapping up, and we hope to announce a preferred vendor by August 2016. Over the past two months, Solar Market Pathways Project Manager Lora Toothman has been leading the effort to analyze the top proposals and reconcile contract exceptions in order to make the individual negotiation process as smooth as possible.

Once the preferred vendor is announced, CICV will host a webinar to introduce both the vendor, and next steps in the negotiation process. Dependent on the colleges' approval of the projects, final system design and permitting should be complete this fall, with construction expected to last into spring 2017. System testing and interconnection to the grid will all take place in early-2017.

Reminder: Material from Previous Workshops Available Online

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

April 18 Workshop

Solar Market Pathways held its first semi-annual workshop of 2016 on April 18 at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, held jointly with Dominion Virginia Power's Solar Market Pathways project. CICV and Dominion held individual discussions in the morning, with CICV's college representatives and advisory panel discussing ways to involve the community and students in our project's efforts, to further education and training on solar in the Commonwealth and involve our students in this project. Dominion sponsored lunch for all attendees, and the afternoon agenda included presentations on battery storage and solar, and a tour of the two battery arrays that Randolph-Macon hosts for Dominion.







Sustainable Communities Leadership Academy, June 7-8, 2016

The second Solar Market Pathways Sustainable Communities Leadership Academy was held in Boston, on June 7 and 8. Robert Lambeth, Thomas Yurysta of Optony, and Lora Toothman attended. Robert, Thomas and Lora worked with Solar Market Pathways grantees from around the country, learning how their projects are helping develop new strategies and approaches to reduce the cost of solar energy. In addition to learning strategies for marketing and education/outreach, stakeholder engagement, collaborating with utilities, financing, and accelerating deployment on college and university campuses, our team also made contact with the Midwest Renewable Energy Association and learned about their online solar certification courses. CICV is in the process of evaluating those courses to see if they would be a good resource for students at Virginia Private Colleges interested in exploring jobs in the solar industry. Partners for the event included the Institute for Sustainable Communities, the Interstate Renewable Energy Council, National Renewable Energy Lab, and Regulatory Assistance Project.

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From our Principle Investigator...

Our CICV Solar Market Pathways project continues to move toward the goal of significantly increasing the use of solar power at Virginia Private Colleges. We will shortly announce an award in our first solar procurement, and plan to have construction underway on the first photovoltaic arrays before the end of the year.

While the successful procurement of solar installations is an enormous step in our Solar Market Pathways project, we still have much to do in the next year and a half. Over the next few months, we will begin ramping up our efforts to introduce solar into the curriculum at participating CICV schools. In addition, we'll also be looking for new ways to share the expertise we've gained, to bring down the cost of solar energy by reducing soft costs. Exciting times lie ahead, and we are looking forward to our next milestones.

After delivering presentations at the Sustainable Communities Leadership Academy in June in Boston and at SOLAR 2016 in July in San Francisco, I have been struck by the level of interest in CICV's Solar Market Pathways project. Ours is a truly innovative model for group solar procurement, and it's generating interest around the country. Virginia Private Colleges are leading the way in the development of new ways for colleges and universities to adopt solar energy.

Robert

