

December 10, 2015

9:00am

PV Installer Monthly Conference Call

Talking Points

Solar Ready Vet's

Vicki Colello, Mike Stangl

NYSERDA is sponsoring a training program at Fort Drum to help highly-skilled veterans transition into the PV industry job market

There will be five training sessions over the next six months. Roughly 125 existing service members will be trained in this program.

The first class starts in early January. Each class will have 24 students and last 5 weeks. The students will be given an introduction to the PV design and installation practices through a NABCEP Entry Level course. Also, they will receive training in PV marketing and sales. In addition, they will take an OSHA 30-hour safety course. A job fair for the first graduating class of veterans will be held in mid-February.

The first class will contain a wide range of veterans with different levels of skills and experience. Most of the students have been in the Army for 4 to 6 years and are in lower rank levels (E3 to E5). However, the class also contains some individuals at more senior levels.

The majority of the veterans want to find PV jobs in the New York State market. They are not afraid of hard work in harsh environmental conditions. They are used to working in teams in difficult circumstances. All of the veterans are in good physical shape.

Many of the students have some background in electronics based on their jobs in the military as generator power, radar/radio operators and weaponry. Almost all have been supervisors on two or more other individuals. They are willing to temporarily relocate as required by different work assignments.

We are asking New York State PV installers to give strong consideration to interviewing and hiring graduates of NYSERDA's Veteran Training Program. You will be contacted in the near future to solicit your participation in the job fairs we plan for the program. Also, we are looking for PV companies/individuals who might be willing to share their knowledge of the PV industry the veterans through in-person and Go-to-meeting presentation to the training classes

Finally, perhaps the most important way we can assist the veterans is to help them establish a network of individuals already in the PV industry, who are willing to mentor them as they make the transition from military service to civilian life.

In particular, we are looking for veterans who are in the solar industry who might be able to help out in this process.

Michael P. Stangl

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VST Job Coordinator

(518) 369-9960

Interplay Learning

Craig Carter

Interplay learning, with the backing of NYSERDA, is launching a simulation based continuing education course focused on improving your operations and maintenance troubleshooting skills on four major residential solar system types. By completing the online course, you receive 12 NABCEP CE credits without having to leave your home. The course is based around using our 3D interactive simulations that enable practice in a life like environment. Because the product is backed by NYSERDA all New York State solar professionals receive 25% discount on the cost of the training.

The product is about to launch in the next couple weeks and if you are interested to learn more or are actively looking for some continuing education units, please go to our site and fill in your name at the bottom.

[www.solar3dsim.com](http://www.solar3dsim.com)

Interplay Learning is the leader in building simulations for the career and technical training. We took our advanced O&M Course and our initial training platform to Solar Power International and took home first place in SPI's Start Up Alley. We are looking to become the leaders in interactive online training for the solar industry.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or comments. I look forward to hearing from you.

Key Contact Info-

Craig Carter

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Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Financing

Mark Thielking

Energize NY (PACE) Finance is now available in NY State for all size solar installations, or solar and efficiency combined, on commercially and nonprofit owned properties.

The next training for installers on how to incorporate Energize NY Finance into your suite of offerings will be hosted by Dutchess County and City of Beacon on January 12th, 2016. RSVP [here](#).

Training includes an overview of Energize NY Finance underwriting criteria, case studies, and interactive discussion. Attendance fulfills the first step for your firm to become a qualified Energize NY partner. Qualified Partners are listed on Energize NY's website and benefit from working with Energize NY's

commercial and municipal marketing outreach teams. Multiple participants from each firm are welcome.

How does PACE work?

Energize NY (PACE) Finance helps project developers and contractors close energy efficiency and renewable energy projects by offering competitive rates (4.0% to 6.25% depending upon term and market conditions) and long terms (5 to 20 years) without the need for traditional consumer credit checks. Energize NY Finance works seamlessly NYSERDA and utility incentive programs. Energize NY Finance makes deep energy improvements possible and affordable with no money down and financing available for up to 100% of the project cost.

To put in a pre-application for financing use this link. Pre-applications are turned around quickly and will give you an idea of how much the property may be eligible for.

If you have questions about the program please contact a commercial team member at (914) 302-7300, option 2 or send an email to Jana Petrikova, Mark Thielking or Robert Fischman.

Eventbrite link for the January training.

Heather Flournoy ,Director, Communications & Operations

Energize NY

914-302-7300, ext. 8105 (o)

914-302-7304 (f)

heather@energizeny.org

Operations Updates and Reminders

Where we are installations under NY-Sun

Since the beginning of 2015, to date December 10, 2015, <200kW program has installed 158 MW of PV capacity and the >200kW program has installed 21 MW for a total of 179 MW of installed capacity in 2015. An additional 468 MW are in development.

## Project Applications and Eligible Incentives

As a reminder, per the Solar Announcements email that was sent on 12/8, incentives are not guaranteed for project applications which have not been "Approved". In addition, project applications that are submitted to Powerclerk after interconnection are NOT eligible for incentives.

Please refer to Section 2.1 of the Program Manual (available here: <http://ny-sun.ny.gov/For-Installers/Forms-Manuals-Tools>):

'Any Contractor/Installer who moves forward with the installation of a project that has not been funded (has not obtained a status of "Received" in the program database) and has a status of "Submitted via Internet" does so at their own financial risk, as there is no guarantee of incentives until the project is both "Received" and "Approved." Also, projects completed prior to being submitted to NYSERDA (prior to obtaining a status of "Submitted via Internet") are not eligible to receive Program incentives.'

## Solar Announcements Email List

A new opt-in email list serve is currently being created. Within the next few weeks, you will receive a request from us to re-register your email address in order to receive Solar Announcements. You will be required to add your email address to this list, even if you are currently receiving the Solar Announcement emails.

As a reminder, solar announcements are also being posted to the NY-Sun website:

<http://ny-sun.ny.gov/For-Installers/Solar-Announcements>

## Incentive Request Forms

Incentive Request Forms should be completely filled out, signed by all parties in the appropriate sections. All required supporting documents should be included with the incentive request form in a single PDF. The maximum file size that is acceptable is 5 MB.

The equipment listed on the form must match Powerclerk. This includes the full module model #. If the equipment has changed, you must submit a Change Order to have the equipment updated in Powerclerk. The Change Order must be approved by NYSERDA PRIOR to submittal of the Incentive Request Form.

Issues found with an Incentive Request form means a longer processing time as we wait for you to fix and resubmit, which means you experience a delay in payment.

### Design Review and Technical Assistance

A reminder that the new code cycle is expected to be adopted in 2016. This will involve adoption of the 2015 IBC (International Building Code), the 2015 IFC (International Fire Code) and the 2014 NEC (National Electric Code) AKA (NFPA 70). Although we do not have the exact date that these codes will be required, it's important that we become familiar with them, and as contractors we maintain a dialog with our local code officials. There are AHJ's that have or may early adopt these new requirements, so it is important that the contactor knows exacting which code(s) and standards that they will be held to.

The most significant item to be aware of is the rooftop set back requirements as described in the Fire Code as they pertain to R3 Residential and commercial structures

Also as a reminder, before submitting any application in PowerClerk you ( or a co-worker) should do a complete review to make sure that all of the information is present and is not conflicting. Also make sure that the documents are signed.

### QA Issues

When responding to an inspection report with a failing score of 1 or 2, please use the CAR document. It is the quickest way to show what corrective action was taken, or to challenge any item in the report. Do not send e-mails on single issues or multi page manufactures manuals as the will be returned.

Top 10 most frequently found issues by equipment:

Supply Side Connection missing Permeant Plaque (705.10 and 690.56)

AC Disconnect missing AC characteristics label (690.54)

Junction Box most of these are non-GFCI power receptacles installed outdoors in a wet location.

AC Combiner missing AC characteristics label (690.54)

Subpanel missing AC characteristics label (690.54)

Load Side Connection permanent plaque missing (705.10 and 690.56)

DC Disconnect Other various issues ( Enclosure not sealed, obscured manufacture's label, ...etc)

DC Combiner Other various issues (ungrounded conductors are missing OCPD, inadequate conduit/raceway support, enclosure not sealed,...etc)

Array DC conductors are below 8 ft., readily accessible and not protected from contact 690.31(A)

Load Side Connection missing AC characteristics label (690.54)

Supply Side Connection missing AC characteristics label (690.54)

Transformerless Inverter Other various issues (incorrect string configuration, conductor missing strain relief, incorrect ground fault warning label,...etc)

As we approach the holiday season, we would like to thank all those that participated in NY Sun in 2015, and for all your hard work. As a friendly reminder, please do not send any gifts to NY Sun staff as we will obligated to return them.

The NY Sun team wishes that you, your family and friends have a wonderful holiday season and a successful 2016.

The next conference call will be January 14, 2016 at 9:00am. Agenda to follow.