



February 11, 2016 Conference Call Summary

USDA REAP Program

Gary Pereira, USDA Rural Development (gary.pereira@ny.usda.gov)

- Funding will be about 50% less than last year
- Recommend applying for grants of \$20,000 or less. Requesting the full 25% of total project cost is not required.
- Large solar grants (> \$20,000) competitive applications should have raw payback of 15 years or less (total project cost / annual electrical savings).
- Large solar projects (total project cost > \$200,000) are encouraged but not required to explore the loan guarantee program.

Learn more:

REAP Round-Up#1 Energy Efficiency Improvements
<https://www.webcaster4.com/Webcast/Page/789/7246>

REAP Round-Up #2 Renewable Energy Systems
<https://www.webcaster4.com/Webcast/Page/789/7311>

REAP Round-Up #3 Project Finance (Guaranteed Loans)
<https://www.webcaster4.com/Webcast/Page/789/7312>

Employee Training Incentive Program

Rebecca Hughes, NYSERDA (rebecca.hughes@nyserda.ny.gov)

- NYSERDA's Clean Energy OJT program (PON 2033)- open and available to businesses seeking to hire and train new heat pump, solar thermal, or biomass employees.
 - Program covers 50% of a new hire's hourly wage for the first six months of employment up to \$10,000 per hire and up to \$75,000 per business.

For more information, reach out to PON2033@nyserda.ny.gov and visit <http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/Funding-Opportunities/Current-Funding-Opportunities/PON-2033-Clean-Energy-On-the-Job-Training>.

- NYS Department of Labor (DOL) OJT program offers a higher rate of reimbursement (up to 90 percent of the hourly wage) with more stringent requirements around hiring "dislocated workers".

For more information, please contact your local DOL Business Services Representative: <https://www.labor.ny.gov/businessservices/landing.shtm/> and you can find more information here: <https://labor.ny.gov/businessservices/ojt.shtm>.

- Empire State Development Corporation (ESD) offers tax incentives under its Employee Training Incentive Program (ETIP) and Internship Program.
 - The Employee Training Incentive Program (ETIP) offers a credit of up to 50% of eligible training expenses, up to \$10,000 per employee receiving eligible training
 - The Internship Program covers a credit of up to 50% of the stipend for an intern, up to \$3,000 per intern

For more information, please contact your regional representative: <http://esd.ny.gov/RegionalOverviews.html> and review information here: https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/credits/employee_training_incentive_credit.htm.

DESIGN REVIEW AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Federal Pacific Electric (FPE) Stab-Lok® Breakers:

FPE manufactured circuit breaker for the residential market in the 1980's. There were times that when these breakers would fail to trip. This problem was most significant with 2-pole breakers that not only provided 240-volt power, and also 120 volts for internal appliance loads, such as dryers and ranges. PV systems are often connected with a 2-pole breaker on the load side. FPE went out of business in the 1980's. However, there are still some new replacement breakers being sold, but since these come from old stock with the same original components they have the same problems. These existing panelboards and load centers are at least 30 years.

In the 1980's the Consumer Product Safety Commission looked into the Federal Pacific Electric Stab-Lok® circuit breakers. FPE in their own defense gave a rather halfhearted statement to the fact that the breakers tripped most of the time, unless they were damaged. This was not a ringing endorsement of their product. The Consumer Product Safety Commission concluded that it didn't have the funding to go into additional research and testing and accepted the manufacturer's statement for what it was.

Since the 1980's there have been more failures, and more evidence that these

panels do not provide a level of reliability and safety.

We are therefore advising contractors against using them for both line side or load side connections. It is in the best interest of your customer to replace these panels when discovered.

In general, whenever you come across a non-code conforming condition or a safety risk, you should as a minimum bring it to the customer's attention. You can then explain that it is in everyone's best interest to correct the problem.

EVENTS

Central Hudson 6th Annual Conference for Solar Energy Professionals in the Hudson Valley

When: Wednesday, March 2, 2016 (Snow Date: Wednesday, March 9) from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: Central Hudson's Kingston District Office at 2001 Route 9W,
Lake Katrine, NY 12449

Cost: \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door.

Online payments are accepted through Feb. 29.

Mailed Checks must be postmarked by Feb. 24.

http://centralhudson.com/solarsummit/2016/registration_withform.aspx

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Solar Ready Vets Program

The program has been very well received by all. This is the first class to complete the training and many candidates already have interviews scheduled. We will keep you notified when other classes complete the training and are available for employment.

Contact Vicki Colello (vicki.colello@nyserda.ny.gov) for more information.
Thank You for your support!

Outstanding Quality Assurance

A high level of quality and reliability is essential for the solar markets maturity and to achieve the NY-Sun goals. Many installers have embraced the process in an effort to learn and improve the final product they deliver to their customers.

On February 9th 2016, the NY-Sun program recognized three installers for

Outstanding Quality Assurance Scores for 2014 -2015 at the ACI Conference in Saratoga Springs, NY.

- Dave Tedeyan with an average QA score of 4.40 on 10 projects selected for inspection
- Gary Redlon II with an average QA score of 4.37 on 96 projects selected for inspection
- Nicholas Kirk with an average QA score of 4.33 out of 6 projects selected for inspection

It is important to recognize all three of these individual Installers. They represent a shining example of what the NY-Sun Program has to offer. Congratulations!

NYSERDA has begun conducting Quality Assurance inspection on Long Island. To date we have 58 inspections scheduled, covering 25 installers.

The next conference call is scheduled for Thursday, March 11th at 9am.

Thank you,
The NY-Sun

About NY-Sun

NY-Sun, a dynamic public-private partnership, will drive growth in the solar industry and make solar technology more affordable for all New Yorkers. NY-Sun brings together and expands existing programs administered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), Long Island Power Authority (LIPA), PSEG Long Island, and the New York Power Authority (NYPA), to ensure a coordinated, well-supported solar energy expansion plan and a transition to a sustainable, self-sufficient solar industry. To learn more about NY-Sun, visit ny-sun.ny.gov

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