

We're Back!

Things are gearing up for SolarFest 2010, our 16th annual celebration of Energy Education and the Arts! We have been working hard to get our website in shape for the season. Check out the links below for up-to-the-minute information.

- [The Benefits of becoming a SolarFest Sponsor](#)
- [2010 Exhibitor Information Packet](#)
- [Singer Songwriter Competition Information](#)
- [2010 Workshop Proposal Form](#)
- [Pre-Festival Advanced Photovoltaic Hands-on Workshop](#)
- [Volunteer Information and Registration](#)

We will keep you posted on developments in entertainment and speakers as they become available. We welcome you to join our Festival Committee whose charge is to plan and prepare for the big weekend in July. This committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 9 at 7pm (Pot-luck supper starts at 6:30pm) at the SolarFest office. Please email Patty at pkenyon@solarfest.org if you would like to sign up to get email reminders about these meetings, as well as notices about workdays and other interesting festival related tidbits.

We continue to encourage you to use GoodSearch.com as your search engine, where every search you make earns SolarFest money. Check it out!

Also, we are now on FaceBook! Please check us out by [clicking here](#) and be sure to "become a fan."

We are happy to be back on the newsletter circuit. If you have news or items of interest you'd like to share, email them to info@solarfest.org and we'll do our best to add them to the next edition. Keep reading for some great news about SolarFest, as well as some local events and other items of interest.

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Volume 2, Issue 1

Quick Links

- [Sponsor Packet](#)
- [Exhibitor Information](#)
- [Songwriter Showcase](#)
- [Workshop Proposal](#)
- [Volunteer Info](#)
- [Pre-Festival Hands-on Workshop](#)
- [Mailing List Sign Up](#)
- [Use GoodSearch.com](#)

Upcoming Meetings

Festival Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 9, 2010 7pm
(Pot-luck supper starts at 6:30pm) at the SolarFest office

SolarFest's Workshops: Calling all Potential Presenters

SolarFest is quickly becoming the "Not-To-Be-Missed" destination for those who want to gain cutting-edge knowledge, skills and inspiration in a whole host of renewable energy and sustainable living topics. And what makes this possible is the collection of amazingly talented, experienced and generous people who offer to become SolarFest Presenters.

Could you be a SolarFest 2010 Presenter?

Once again we are soliciting Workshop Proposals from anyone who has expertise or unique experience in any of the following areas:

- Renewable Energy
- Green Building
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Thriving Locally
- The Solar Generation (workshops specifically designed for young people)

If you think you have something to share with the SolarFest audience, feel free to submit a proposal using the Workshop Proposal Form found on our website. All proposals will be reviewed by the SolarFest workshop committee.

Click here to access our [Workshop Proposal Form](#)

Upcoming Events and Interesting News

Vermont Community Energy Mobilization Project

The Rutland Regional Planning Commission, in conjunction with Efficiency Vermont, will be helping local energy committees perform energy home assessments in the countywide [Vermont Community Energy Mobilization Project](#). This program is also being conducted in other counties around the state.

Volunteers will be trained to conduct free home energy visits designed to help homeowners learn about energy-saving opportunities. They will install compact fluorescent light bulbs and water-saving devices as well as provide more information and special incentives to save more energy. The home energy visit identifies homes that would be good candidates for a professional energy audit and comprehensive energy efficiency home improvements through a certified Vermont Weatherization or Home Performance with an ENERGY STAR contractor.

Home visits will be coordinated in 16 Rutland County communities: Benson, Brandon, Castleton, Danby, Fair Haven, Killington, Mendon, Middletown Springs, Pittsford, Poultney, Rutland City, Rutland Town, Shrewsbury, Tinmouth, Wallingford, West Haven, and West Rutland. Volunteers from other towns are always welcome. Call Philip Picotte at (802) 775-0871, ext. 205, for more information.



A Letter to SolarFest From a 2009 Pre-Festival PV-101 Workshop Participant

Both my Father and I want to thank you, Richard Gottlieb, and everyone else who helped put together the Introduction to Photovoltaic Technology Workshop last summer (2009). We both participated in the workshop and then took and passed the NABCEP entry-level PV installer exam.

After that, we applied what we learned in workshop and decided to install a grid-tied PV system on our house using micro-inverters instead of a central string inverter.

[Click here to see a brief write-up that summarizes the system.](#) The following link takes you to current per module production and other data for the system. We think it's very cool.

<http://enlighten.enphaseenergy.com/public/systems/WHHJ1914>

Because of all the incentives and the housing slump, many construction workers and electricians are now installing solar systems here in New Jersey. Recently, I heard that 200 new installers were added to the state's "approved" list just last year. Prices for installed PV systems have been dropping.

Another interesting development here in New Jersey relates to one of our electric utilities (PSE&G). This company provides financing for residential projects and repayment of the loan is through the SREC's (solar renewable energy credits) that the PV system generates. The homeowner does not have to make actual cash repayments.

Thanks again to everybody involved in the course and SolarFest!!

Best regards, Dan Fischl

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

Questions or comments? E-mail us at info@solarfest.org or call 802-235-1513

SolarFest blends art, education, and outreach to inspire conservation, promote renewable energy, and support sustainable communities.



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