

## NYSEIA ON THE MOVE ...

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### *Good bye from Joel ...*

I have been privileged to serve as your Executive Vice-President during the past five years.

On a day-to day basis, there was much to learn about the operations of a trade and membership organization, and much excitement in becoming well-acquainted with your needs, your dreams, and the challenges of those in the solar and small wind industry.

We faced many opportunities and issues together:

- Interconnection and net metering
- Solar licensing on Long Island
- Property taxes
- Maintaining Systems Benefits Charge funds
- Working for a Renewable Portfolio Standard that supported solar

We won some issues and lost some others, but there is no doubt that together, we made progress.

I enjoyed the chance to meet so many great people and the challenge of working as NYSEIA's designated manager on two Million Solar Roofs grants from the U.S. DOE and NYSERDA.

On the first, we helped SUNY Farmingdale become the fourth ISP nationally-accredited PV training institution in the nation. In addition, NY solar installer Dr. Gay Canough became certified as one of only two PV Master Trainers in the nation.

On the second, we began the pilot of a PV Installer Internship Program which NYSEIA will fully launch in 2006. Without such training, the solar industry could face a serious shortage of trained installers in the not-too-distant future.

As NYSEIA moves forward, you may have to re-fight some old battles, as well as face new ones. Let me assure you that in Christine Donovan, your

new Executive Vice-President, you have a capable leader with long ties to the solar industry. But to help NYSEIA achieve its potential, she will need both your continued membership and your active participation as well.

This is your organization, with many opportunities for member involvement—please play an active role in NYSEIA in the future.

Thank you for your ongoing support of NYSEIA, and of solar energy.

With best wishes,

*Joel N. Gordes*

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Joel continues as Founder and Principal of:

**Environmental Energy Solutions**  
38 Brookmoor Road  
West Hartford, CT 06107  
860-561-0566 Ph/Fax

<http://home.earthlink.net/~jgordes>

## CHRISTINE DONOVAN SELECTED AS EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

*“The vision is a robust, professional, well-trained, profitable solar energy industry throughout New York State that honors the pioneers and masters, and inspires (and trains) new talent to join the profession.”*

Christine Donovan  
August 2005

The NYSEIA Executive Committee announced in late October that Christine Donovan had been offered and accepted the position as the next NYSEIA Executive Vice President. She will work part-time as an independent consultant.

Christine has been in the renewable energy industry since 1980, when she served as Energy Director of Maine Audubon Society. At Audubon, she was responsible for installation and management of 15 solar, wind, and energy efficiency technologies located at the Society’s solar and wood heated headquarters, and their retrofitted 200-year old farmhouse.

In 1986, Christine formed C.T. Donovan Associates, Inc., a renewable energy consulting firm with clients throughout the U.S.. Clients include the U.S. DOE, U.S. EPA, NYSERDA, Niagara Mohawk, HYDRA-CO, New England Electric System, Central Maine Power Company, numerous independent power producers, and multiple state energy offices.

Christine is recognized for her technical knowledge of solar energy as well as her public policy “savvy,” communication skills, and organizational management expertise.

She is Past Chair of the

Board of Directors of the American Solar Energy Society, Northeast Sustainable Energy Association, Maine Solar Energy Association, and a variety of visual arts, performing arts, and civic organizations.

Christine officially took over on January 1, 2006, after working with Joel during a two-month transition period.

**To contact Christine:**  
Email: [ctdonovan@nyseia.org](mailto:ctdonovan@nyseia.org)

## 2006—THE YEAR AHEAD ...

Building on past accomplishments, NYSEIA seeks to accomplish the following in 2006:

- Fully launch the PV Installer Internship Program funded by U.S. DOE/NYSERDA  
*(See related stories on p. 3)*
- Monitor state-level policy and regulatory issues affecting the solar energy industry, and provide testimony and technical input to the General Assembly, Senate, Public Service Commission, etc.
- Continue to serve the needs of the solar energy industry, and help ensure the industry has the voice it needs (and deserves) in policy and regulatory affairs
- Maintain NYSEIA’s role in various solar energy policy, education, and outreach coalitions in New York State
- Serve NYSEIA’s existing membership, while reaching out to new businesses, organizations, and citizens seeking a sustainable energy future in New York State

## NYSEIA AWARDED PV INSTALLER TRAINING CONTRACT

As you may know, NYSEIA is the proud recipient of a grant to oversee a **PV Installer Internship Program** in New York State.

Funding for this program is cost-shared between the U.S. Department of Energy's Million Solar Roofs Program and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSEIDA).

The goal is to provide new PV installers with in-the-field experience and on-the-job training so they have the knowledge and skills to install high-quality PV systems.

The program will provide on-the-job training at actual PV installation sites, focusing

on design fundamentals, system sizing, interconnection, the National Electric Code, worker safety, etc.

The training will be provided by qualified PV Installers interested in serving as Mentors for this program.

Installation interns may include new installers just seeking to enter the market, existing installers pursuing certification by NABCEP, and/or existing installers seeking to participate in NYSEIDA's PV incentive programs.

To learn more about the Mentor and Intern opportunities, see the articles below.

## NYSEIA SEEKS INSTALLER MENTORS

Are you an experienced PV installer interested in helping train new workers to become installers? Might your company benefit by having more installers capable of doing high quality work out in the field?

If you are NABCEP certified and are

listed as an "Eligible Installer" by NYSEIDA, this program could be for you.

Space is limited; apply by **April 1, 2006**. For an application, contact Christine Donovan via email at: [ctdonovan@nyseia.org](mailto:ctdonovan@nyseia.org)

## NYSEIA SEEKS PV INTERNS

Do you dream of being a PV installer and helping make the world a better place with solar energy? Have you completed a basic course on solar electricity and/or are you familiar with the basic concepts of PV systems?

Would you benefit from the opportunity to receive instruction, guidance, and oversight on 3 supervised PV installations within the next year? The PV Installer

Internship Program could be for you.

Applicants must be 18 years of age, (or if a BOCES student, 16 years of age), and a resident of New York State.

Space is limited; apply by **April 1, 2006**. For an application, contact Christine Donovan via email: at [ctdonovan@nyseia.org](mailto:ctdonovan@nyseia.org)

## CALIFORNIA APPROVES \$3.2 BILLION SOLAR PROGRAM

*Most residential customers will pay an extra \$12 per year to fund the CA program.*

The California Public Utilities Commission voted 3-1 on January 12 in favor of the California Solar Initiative - an innovative program that will result in \$3.2 billion in solar incentives over 10 years. The program is projected to result in 3,000 MW of new solar electricity on 1 million CA homes, businesses, and public buildings during the next decade.

According to the Associated Press, currently about 100 MW, or about 0.3% of California's electric capacity comes from rooftop solar panels on about 15,000 buildings.

"The California Solar Initiative is the largest solar program in the country and I hope it will be a model for other states," said Dian Grueneich, a member of the state PUC.

The program will largely be funded by a surcharge on gas and electric bills. Most residential customers will pay an extra \$12 per year to fund the program.

For more information:

[www.cpuc.ca.gov/static/energy/051214\\_solarincentive.htm](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/static/energy/051214_solarincentive.htm)

## CALIFORNIA SOLAR INITIATIVE

The California Solar Initiative will:

- Provide incentives for customer-side PV and solar thermal electric projects under 1 MW capacity.
- Authorize a pilot solar water heater incentive program for customers of San Diego Gas and Electric Company. If successful, the pilot will be expanded.
- Set initial PV incentives at \$2.80/watt to be reduced by about 10% annually. Incentives for solar thermal electric, solar heating and solar cooling will be determined in 2006.
- Allocate 10% of program funds for low-income and affordable housing.
- Develop a performance incentive to reward high-performing solar projects.
- Reduce carbon dioxide emissions by nearly 58 million tons during the 10-year program, and by more than 188 million tons over the life of the solar installations.
- Reduce nitrogen oxide emissions by 27,000 tons during the program, and by 97,000 tons over the life of the solar installations.
- Produce 40,000 solar installation, operation, and maintenance jobs and 61,000 manufacturing "job-years" during the program.
- Result in a net positive societal benefit for CA of \$1.2 to \$18.2 billion, depending on the cost of avoided power and the overall project timeframe.

For more information: [www.votesolar.org](http://www.votesolar.org)

## NYSEIA SENATE TESTIMONY

NYSEIA members were well represented before the **New York State Senate Democratic Task Force on Alternative Energy** in Albany on November 17, 2005. NYSEIA Vice President Tom Thompson delivered a 20-minute Power Point presentation on maximizing solar power in NYS. President Anthony Pereira also attended, as did other NYSEIA members. Highlights of NYSEIA's presentation are below:

- Global growth rate of solar electricity was 30% over the past 5 years.
- Worldwide solar electricity production capacity is presently over 1 GigaWatt (GW).
- Germany has the single largest solar program of any country in the world, with about 25 MW of solar electricity currently on line in the City of Berlin alone.
- NYS currently has about 5 MW of grid-tied PV. By comparison, nearby NJ has more than 20 MW.
- The 2005 Federal Energy Bill provides a 30% tax credit for solar electricity, but the credit only lasts 2 years.
- The solar industry and finance community need longer-term commitments and market incentives to invest in solar.
- Existing NYS residential rebates for solar electric are helpful, but not sufficient.
- Future RPS/SBC funding for solar must be assured and expanded by:
  - Establishing a PV "carve out" reflecting the commercial, off-the-shelf ability to help address peak power load problems, improve air emissions, etc.
  - Increasing incentives and eliminating caps (NJ provides a template).
  - Creating a tradeable "green tag"/REC market (NJ has a template).
- Net metering must be expanded from 10 kW to 1 MW, made available statewide, and expanded from just residences to schools, businesses, and other energy users.

*"Our business and school customers in New York State are shocked when they learn existing net metering legislation does not apply to them."*

*New York State PV  
Installer*

## SOLAR SWAP—**NEW**

Do you have something solar to swap or share? Do you need help from another installer or industry member? This space could be for you.

NYSEIA is offering to run "Solar Swap Ads" at no charge - available only to our members, on a space available basis. Each ad will be run once in our quarterly newsletter. Maximum words per ad: 50.

Send your ad to: [info@nyseia.org](mailto:info@nyseia.org). Deadline for the next newsletter: **March 15, 2006.**

### **Installer Seeking Grid Tie Experience:**

"I am looking for an opportunity to work with someone to complete 3 grid tie systems. I have completed the NYSEIDA training course and have installed several off grid systems." If you may be able to help, please contact:

Kirk Gordon, MA CAS, President,  
Quality Solar Concepts, Inc,  
email: [qsconcepts@rochester.rr.com](mailto:qsconcepts@rochester.rr.com)  
[www.qsconcepts.com](http://www.qsconcepts.com)

# NEW YORK SOLAR ENERGY INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.nyseia.org](http://www.nyseia.org)

Email: [info@nyseia.org](mailto:info@nyseia.org)  
Phone: 518-495-1454

Mail:  
533 Woodford Avenue  
Endicott, NY 13760

*A trade and membership association dedicated to serving the  
Growing solar energy industry throughout New York State.*

**Members include:**

- Equipment manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers
- Solar installers
- Consumers seeking cost-effective, proven solar energy products commercially available today
- Building designers, architects, and engineers
- Educators and students
- Policy analysts, regulators, and elected officials

## JOIN NYSEIA TODAY!!!

**Membership Categories:**

<b>Business/Industry Member</b>	<b>Annual Sales</b>	<b>Annual Dues</b>
	Up to \$250,000	\$ 100
	\$250,000 - \$1 Million	\$ 250
	Over \$1 Million	\$ 500
	Over \$10 Million	\$1,000
<b>Utility Member</b>		\$ 500
<b>Non-Profit Organization</b>		\$ 75
<b>Consumer/Educator/Student</b>		\$ 25

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Clip and mail with your check payable to **NYSEIA** to:  
NYSEIA, 533 Woodford Avenue, Endicott, NY 13760

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Web Page \_\_\_\_\_