

# School Power...Naturally <sup>(sm)</sup>

## ***News and Views from Solar Works, Inc. to School Principals and Solar Coordinators***

**March 2004**

**Newsletter: Number 12**

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Dear School Principals and Solar Coordinators,

The **School Power ... Naturally** <sup>(sm)</sup> (SPN) team has been busy preparing for the oncoming 2004 installation season and has made good progress. Seven schools now have installed systems and we plan to have the remaining 43 schools installed by August 30 of this year – with your help.

Installation schedules are being created that are based on progress toward completion of specific tasks by each school. Schools can help advance their own installation, by making sure that engineering letters, asbestos letters, and contracts are returned to Solar Works promptly. For those coordinators and principals who are unsure of their school's status for these three items, please refer to the list below. As we have stated previously, no installation work can progress without these three things having been received from each school.

If your school does not have green shading in the columns labeled "Final Engineering Ltr Rcv'd", or "Final Asbestos Ltr.", then we do not have those items on file. Please take the time to track such items and send signed and completed forms back to Solar Works Inc. as soon as possible. If you are unable to locate these items, please e-mail a request for new forms to Sheila LaPerle, SPN Documents Manager, at [slaperle@solar-works.com](mailto:slaperle@solar-works.com). If the column "SI Contract Rec'd" is not shaded green that means that an installation contract has not yet been executed. A "P" means that the contract is in process but not yet executed.

Last month, Geoff Levin, Solar Works' project manager for the SPN program, resigned from his position to pursue other professional interests. Geoff has successfully resolved many of the utility interconnection issues that delayed the program last fall, and managed the first round of installs at seven of the SPN schools. We all wish him the best in his new endeavors. Solar Works is in the process of hiring another SPN project manager, but in the interim, Leigh Seddon, President of Solar Works, will be directing the SPN Team. Leigh can be reached at [lseddon@solar-works.com](mailto:lseddon@solar-works.com).

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SPN #	School Name	Final Engineering Ltr rovd.	Final Asbestos Ltr.	SI Contract Rec'd	Utility
33	A.A. Kingston Middle School/Potsdam			P	NiMo
1	Albany Free School		N/A		NiMo
18	Alternative Community School				NYSEG
47	Armstrong Middle School			P	NYSEG
2	Beaver River Central School				NiMo
3	Berlin Junior Senior High School				NYSEG
4	Bethlehem Central Middle School				NiMo
5	Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School				NiMo
6	Canandaigua Academy				NYSEG
7	Canton Central School				NiMo
8	Carthage Central High School				NiMo
9	Clarkstown South High School				O&R
35	Colonie Central High School				NiMo
10	Colton-Pierrepont Central School				NiMo
11	Darrow School				NYSEG
13	Dryden Junior Senior High School				NYSEG
15	Ethical Culture Fieldston School		N/A		Con Ed
16	Highland High School				Cen Hud
14	Howard L. Goff Middle School				NiMo
12	James A. Green HS / Dolgeville				NiMo
17	James I.O'Neil High School				O&R
19	Jamesville-DeWitt Middle School				NiMo
20	Jefferson Technical Center				NiMo
21	Lansing High School				NYSEG
22	Liverpool High School			P	NiMo
23	Marcellus Senior High School			P	NYSEG
24	McGraw Elementary School			P	NiMo
25	Newark High School				NYSEG
26	Newfane Senior High School				NiMo
28	Notre Dame Bishop Gibbons School		N/A		NiMo
29	Oppenheim-Ephratah Central School				NiMo
30	Otsego Area Occupational Center				NYSEG
31	Our Lady of Lourdes High School		N/A	P	Cen Hud
32	Pavilion Central Middle and High Sch.			P	NiMo
27	Shaker Senior High School				NiMo
34	Sidney Middle School				NYSEG
36	Somers High School				NYSEG
37	Spencer Van Etten Middle/Senior HS				NYSEG
38	St. Francis of Assisi		N/A		CON ED
39	Sweet Home Senior High School				NiMo
40	Tabernacle Christian Academy				Cen Hud
41	Thousand Islands High School			P	NiMo
42	Van Hornesville Owen D Young Ctl Sch				NiMo
43	Voorheesville MS/CA Bouton HS				NiMo
44	Warsaw Central School			P	NYSEG
45	Warwick Valley High School				O&R
46	Wayland School				NYSEG
48	Wayne Technical and Career Center				NYSEG
50	Williamsville North High School				NiMo
49	Winchester Elementary School				NYSEG

## Utility Interconnection Update

Progress continues to be made on interconnecting the installed schools and resolving specific issues with the utility companies. While New York State has published standardized interconnection guidelines, individual utilities are allowed to impose their own requirements. Since SPN schools fall within five different utility territories, Solar Works has been working for the past several months on obtaining consistent hardware, legal, and financial requirements.

Exactly half the SPN schools are served by Niagara Mohawk (NIMO). We have reached agreement with NIMO on all requirements. The first of the NIMO schools, Jamesville-Dewitt is interconnected and up and running. Four others will soon be interconnected and sending output data to the SPN website see “Performance Data” at [www.SchoolPowerNaturally.org](http://www.SchoolPowerNaturally.org)

After discussions with NY State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) and their subsidiary Rochester Gas & Electric (RG&E), we have agreed to accept their requirement for installation of an additional isolation transformer on each of the solar systems. Solar Works will supply and install this equipment at no extra charge to the 17 schools served by these utilities.

We have also been working on interconnection policy for schools served by Central Hudson, Orange & Rockland, and Con Ed. We do not anticipate any additional issues for these schools that have not already been addressed in our discussions with the other utilities.

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## Curriculum and Teacher Training Update

Now that all ten SPN Trainers have conducted an initial training session, it is time to consider future workshops. As you can see from the trainer role description, listed below, we care very much that solar coordinators from participating schools work with their trainer to plan such workshops. We suspect that most schools will want their system up and running before their next workshop, but it is really up to the schools and the trainers. Your second workshop could occur this spring or summer or next fall, or even later. Be sure to let your trainer know what you want and when it is the best time for your teachers to attend.

This is a reminder that we are in this project together, and the way our SPN lessons are going to improve is for teachers to suggest changes after

- reading lessons that interest them,
- or better still, trying lessons out with their students.

Then valuable feedback on the lessons can be sent to Bill Peruzzi at [billperuz@aol.com](mailto:billperuz@aol.com).

Forms for making reports (reading or piloting) are available at [www.nyserda.org/schools/curricular.html](http://www.nyserda.org/schools/curricular.html). If your teachers prefer providing feedback by narrative in an email, that is fine. Bill is looking forward to hearing from them.

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## Public Education and Outreach Update

### SOLAR BUDDY PROGRAM

Thirty eight schools have selected a Solar Buddy partner school. If you still need a Solar Buddy, please contact your Area Coordinator (see lists below). With installations moving forward, you will be planning tours and Open Houses that can include your Solar Buddy. Also, we will send Solar Buddies a free Solar Education Kit.

### EARTH DAY EVENTS

With Earth Day around the corner, now is a good time to begin thinking about setting up a booth and other activities that encourage students to showcase your school's involvement in *SCHOOL POWER...NATURALLY<sup>sm</sup>!* Please contact your Area Coordinators (see below) if you have any questions or suggestions.

### EVENTS AT YOUR SCHOOL

Please keep your Area Coordinator informed of upcoming solar and renewable-energy activities in your region that might include *SCHOOL POWER...NATURALLY<sup>sm</sup>* . .

**Area 1 Downstate:** 6 schools in Bronx, Kings, Orange, Rockland, and Westchester Counties. Coordinator: Maya Agurwal, telephone 212-645-9930, email: [maya@sustainabilityed.org](mailto:maya@sustainabilityed.org)

**Area 2 Mid-Hudson:** 6 schools in Dutchess, Columbia, Ulster, and Delaware Counties. Coordinator: Linda Anne Burtis, telephone 518-439-3771, email: [antanana@yahoo.com](mailto:antanana@yahoo.com)

**Area 3 Capital Region:** 12 schools Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady, Saratoga, and St. Lawrence Counties. Coordinator: Linda Anne Burtis, telephone 518-439-3771, email: [antanana@yahoo.com](mailto:antanana@yahoo.com)

**Area 4 Central:** 15 schools in Lewis, Jefferson, Herkimer, Tompkins, Onondaga, Cortland, Fulton, and Chemung Counties. Coordinator: Hal Smith, telephone 607-655-2491, email: [hals205b@aol.com](mailto:hals205b@aol.com)

**Area 5 Western:** 11 schools in Ontario, Wayne, Niagara, Genesee, Erie, Wyoming, and Steuben Counties. Coordinator: Linda M. Hardie, Executive Director of Clean Communities of Western NY, telephone 716-634-1038, e-mail: [ccofwny.lmh@verizon.net](mailto:ccofwny.lmh@verizon.net)

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**From all of us on the Project Team, thanks again for your assistance.**

**Please circulate this newsletter to others interested in School Power...Naturally<sup>(sm)</sup>!**