SSTI Monthly Newsletter

Maximizing Solar Potential across the Southwest *July 2012*

SunShot Summit Recap

The SunShot Grand Challenge Summit and Technology Forum held in Denver last month was a chance for the solar industry to gather and discuss the scientific, technological, and market barriers to achieving breakthroughs in national energy challenges. The event, organized by the U.S. Department of Energy, was attended by over 600 stakeholders from government, industry, and academia.

SSTI participants were highlighted for a national audience during an evening technology forum. The session was well attended including an appearance from Secretary of Energy Dr. Steven Chu. The SolarRoadmap platform was featured at one of the booths and received very positive reviews.

The Summit also afforded the opportunity to meet with leaders from the 21 other Rooftop Solar Challenge teams across the U.S. This was a chance to share ideas as well as discuss key challenges and opportunities within the focus areas of permitting, planning and zoning, interconnection, net metering, and finance. These 'soft cost' areas were a key focus of the Summit, as evidenced in a keynote speech by the Secretary:

"Even if you paid nothing for the hardware, you'd still pay thousands of dollars to install a residential solar power system." –Secretary Chu

The Secretary discussed the aggressive cost reduction targets for non-hardware costs in PV systems that will be required to reach Department of Energy goals, and how the Rooftop Solar Challenge is addressing these needs. An interesting comparison was drawn to the residential PV market in Germany, where costs are about half of domestic levels.

Find more information and presentations from the summit here: http://www.sunshotgrandchallenge.energy.gov/

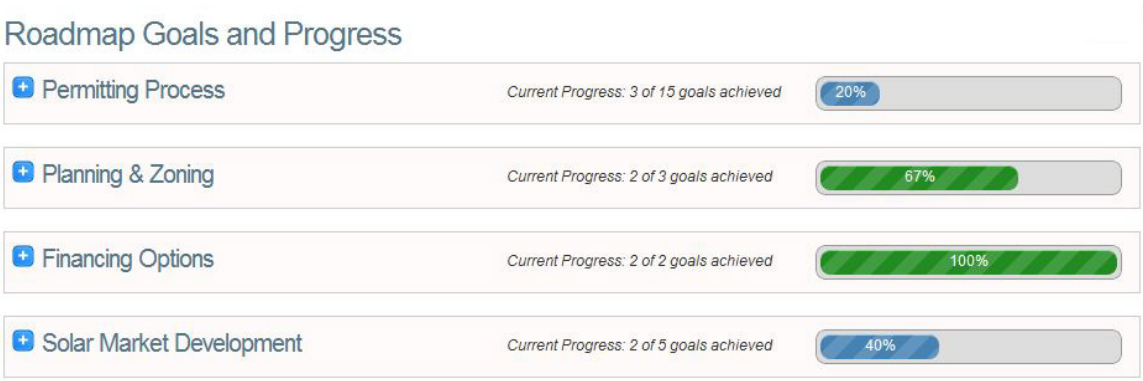
Pictured above: Ben Foster from Optony leads a panel discussion on state and local market transformation

Municipal Solar Project in Clovis, CA

The City of Clovis, California, in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley, unveiled its largest public solar project on May 7, 2012 that will help power the headquarters of the city's police and fire departments. The project is being paid for with a 14-year, 3% interest loan of $953,238 from the California Energy Commission and a second, city-financed 20-year loan for $2.45 million at 4.95% interest. Clovis officials expect to save $3.37 million over the 25-year life of the installation. Clovis is setting a good example for how municipalities can lead the adoption and spur the growth of solar in their jurisdictions.

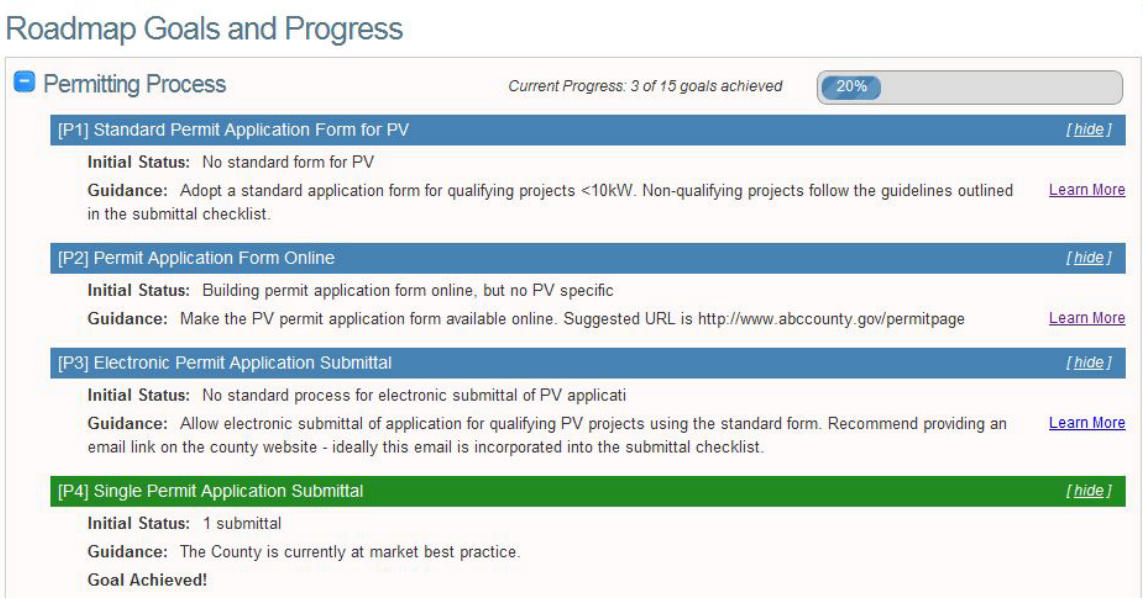
Solar Roadmap Preview

Available online at www.solarroadmap.com, each participant will have a password-secured webpage which will contain their customized roadmap. Recommendations for municipal partners will be organized into (4) focus areas as shown below:



Utility partners will have separate focus areas dealing with interconnection and net metering processes. Regional and state partners will have overlapping focus areas designed to spur regional collaboration and adoption.

Expanding a focus area will reveal the associated objectives along with tailored guidance as shown below:



Clicking the 'learn more' hyperlink next to each objective will reveal a series of case studies and resources designed to provide guidance for achieving the objective.

The SSTI team is looking forward to sharing the roadmaps this summer. At that time, we will be reviewing the draft recommendations with each participant to further tailor and finalize their roadmap. The SSTI team will then provide training and resources to help implement the roadmaps, as desired on an opt-in basis, through Q4 of this year.

For those agencies interested in seeing a preview of their roadmap, please contact the SSTI team at http://www.solarroadmap.com/about/contact/

Brownfield Solar Development – Case Study from Durango, CO

For municipal agencies looking to go solar, one of the first questions is often - where? Site screening and selection is an important part of implementing a good system. Common choices include rooftop systems on public buildings and solar carports at corporate yards. While these are great options, another often overlooked solution is local brownfield sites.

Developing solar projects on brownfield sites has the added benefit of making productive use of public land that is typically underutilized. Common brownfield sites include waste disposal facilities, former military sites, mining and extraction operations, EPA Superfund sites, and other locations with environmental issues. All of these sites have served as homes for PV systems.

What's Happening This Month

The SSTI team will be scheduling site visits for the August/September time frame. This will be an opportunity to discuss the roadmaps and findings, explore programs and market development opportunities that may be deployed in your area, and discuss opportunities for regional collaboration.

A great example is happening just outside Durango, CO. The project location is a 40-acre uranium mill tailing disposal cell located on 120 acres; byproducts from a Durango mill that processed uranium ore in the 1950's. The site is managed by the U.S. DOE Office of Legacy Management. The DOE has issued a solicitation to lease the land on a 20 or 25 year term to a solar project developer. An environmental assessment study conducted by the OLM indicated that a PV array would have no negative impacts on the site. An initial request for expressions of interest resulted in 14 potential developers step forward to express a desire in working on the site. The site offers space to host a PV array which could produce enough power to offset over 1,000 homes.

The SSTI team has included case studies and recommendations for developing brownfield sites as part of the roadmaps. Learn more about the Durango project here.

About Optony

Optony is a global research and consulting firm focused on enabling governments, schools, investors, and commercial organizations to bridge the gap between solar energy goals and real-world results. Leveraging our independence, domain expertise and unique market position, our clients are empowered to make informed decisions that reduce risk, optimize operations, and deliver the greatest long-term return on their solar investments. www.optony.com

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About SEI

Strategic Energy Innovations (SEI), a nonprofit organization established in 1997, helps empower schools and universities, small businesses, local governments, affordable housing agencies, and agricultural communities to reduce pollution and save money through energy and resource efficiency. www.seiinc.org

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