

SOLAR OPPORTUNITIES SERIES

POWER BREAKFAST: Solar means business in Minnesota | September 24 AM

COMMUNITY SOLAR: It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood | October 24 PM

NEXT STEPS: Financing solar for your business | November 21 PM

BACKGROUND

Earlier this year, the Minnesota Legislature passed several new policies that will significantly expand solar in Minnesota. These policy improvements include

- a new solar energy standard that requires public utilities to generate at least 1.5 percent of their electricity from solar by 2020,
- a framework that enables groups of community members to jointly develop a solar project,
- an increase in the project size that can qualify for net metering, and
- a requirement that a value-of-solar rate be implemented that compensates solar project owners for the true value of the electricity they produce.

These new laws are expected to increase the state's installed solar capacity to more than 450 megawatts—a more than 32-fold increase over the next seven years—and more policy changes are likely in 2014 and 2015. Ultimately, this could create a one billion dollar market within a few years time.

EVENTS

POWER BREAKFAST: SOLAR MEANS BUSINESS IN MINNESOTA | SEPTEMBER 24, 7:30–11:00AM

The first event in the three-part series, Fresh Energy's annual Power Breakfast will outline recent legislative changes on solar and explain and discuss anticipated policy improvements in the coming years.

COMMUNITY SOLAR: IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD | OCTOBER 24, 1:30–4:30PM

Thanks to recent legislation, Xcel Energy's Minnesota customers will be able to jointly develop and own "community solar" projects beginning in 2014. Fresh Energy's Community Solar event will introduce community leaders and institutions to this promising new solar-development model, providing an objective update on the detailed rules currently being written.

NEXT STEPS: FINANCING SOLAR FOR YOUR BUSINESS | NOVEMBER 21, 1:30–4:30PM

For many businesses and property owners, the high upfront cost of solar photovoltaic systems remains the single largest barrier to adoption. The solution? Solar financing. Fresh Energy's November event will introduce participants to the range of current and emerging solar-financing options available in Minnesota.

AUDIENCE

The Solar Opportunities Series is designed for companies and organizations that are in a position to benefit from emerging solar business opportunities, including:

Commercial property owners/real estate developers
Construction firms involved in solar installation
Community and economic development organizations
Electrical contractors/large scale solar installers
Solar panel manufacturers
Solar financing sources (private, public, public/private)

Engineering firms involved in solar installation
Legal firms involved in solar projects
Neighborhood and community organizations
Public project developers of housing, schools, and public buildings
Public officials and utilities

PROGRAM

Each event will be held at the Science Museum of Minnesota and will offer: A summary of policy changes, a panel of experts and case studies illustrating the newly available opportunities, ample time for Q & A and networking, and the following keynote addresses:

POWER BREAKFAST: Shayle Kann, Vice President of Research, Greentech Media

COMMUNITY SOLAR: Frank Altman, President and CEO, Community Reinvestment Fund
(Alternate: Melissa Hortman, State Representative and Speaker Pro Tempore)

NEXT STEPS: Jigar Shah, President and CEO, Jigar Shah Consulting; Partner, Inerjys; Board Member, Carbon War Room

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE: For more information, please contact Katy Lowery at 651-726-7561 or lowery@fresh-energy.org.