



# SEPA

solar electric power association

## Solar and Renewable Energy Integration Fact Finding Mission to New York and New Jersey September 30 – October 4, 2012



### Who?

SEPA's 2012 U.S. Fact Finding Mission is specifically designed for utility executives and decision makers. Participation is limited to a delegation of up to 25 utility delegates as well as a small number of SEPA staff and solar stakeholders.

### What?

This information-packed week-long Fact Finding Mission provides an unparalleled opportunity to learn first-hand about utility solar programs, policies, trends and renewable energy integration challenges and solutions from utilities and experts in some of the most dynamic U.S. Solar Markets.

New Jersey is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest solar market in the U.S. and New York is the 7<sup>th</sup>. The mission delegation will have discussion-focused meetings and site visits with:

- Atlantic City Electric
- Brookhaven National Laboratory
- Consolidated Edison
- Long Island Power Authority
- New York Power Authority
- PSE&G



The agenda will focus on utility programs, integration challenges (including urban environments), lessons learned, best practices and what the future may hold for U.S. utilities as the world moves increasingly forward with renewable energy.

The mission will incorporate peer-to-peer information sharing with utility counterparts and a series of meetings, workshops and site visits with key stakeholders in the solar and electric markets of New York and New Jersey. Mission activities focus on education with an emphasis on interactive discussions. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss their interests with experts in some of the top solar markets in the U.S.

For more information, including a draft agenda, please visit the SEPA [Fact Finding Mission](#) webpage.

### Why Should I Participate?

The SEPA Fact Finding Mission is the best way to learn first-hand from experts who are currently addressing the challenges you may face tomorrow. The mission content and events are developed exclusively for utility executives and

### What previous participants have to say...

#### Germany 2012

100% of utility delegates rated the Fact Finding Mission experience as *an excellent use of their professional time.*

*"This was one of the most educational, valuable weeks I have experienced in the last 10 years. I went on the trip as a solar skeptic, and came back a solar convert."*

- Melanie McCoy,  
General Manager,  
Wyandotte Municipal Services

#### Southern California 2011

*"The SEPA Fact Finding Missions provide a unique learning opportunity that you cannot receive at any conference or in any classroom. The blend of interactive, classroom-style learning with interesting site tours and the ability to network with utility colleagues from across the country makes this a truly valuable experience."*

- Barbara Sprungl, Manager,  
Sustainability Initiatives,  
Salt River Project

#### Italy 2011

*"In the 26 years I've worked at my utility, I've been to a lot of meetings and events. This is by far the best industry event I've ever attended."*

- Glenn Moore, Vice President,

decision makers, providing a singular opportunity to learn and network with like-minded peers. This unique educational opportunity will provide participants with a wealth of knowledge to bring back and share with their colleagues.

Delegates will explore the challenges and lessons to be learned from the dynamic markets of New York and New Jersey. The Fact Finding Mission will highlight and focus on a number of strategic topics including:

- **Policies** – evolving in response to changing markets (solar, renewable energy credit, and others); policy trends regionally and nationally; impacts and challenges for utilities;
- **Transmission and distribution** – responding to the challenge of high-penetration and tools being developed to help (including smart grid, storage, communication); the challenges of working in an urban environment;
- **Projects** – the focus for utilities, project developers, communities and other stakeholders working in this region;
- **The future** – looking forward in solar and renewable energy markets and the role of utilities; experts share their predictions on the where the market is going and the changing role of utilities.

### ***When and Where?***



#### **September 30 – October 4, 2012**

The delegation will arrive September 30<sup>th</sup>. Activities will start Sunday evening with a networking reception and welcome dinner. The mission will conclude on the evening of Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup> and delegates return home on Friday, the 5<sup>th</sup>.

### ***How Much Does it Cost?***

The registration fee for the Fact Finding Mission is \$1,500 and includes:

- Registration for all meetings, workshops and site visits
- Hotel for 5 nights
- Group transportation to and from meetings and site visits
- Group networking receptions and meals

Not included in the participation fee are airfare, transportation to/from airports and miscellaneous expenses.

***A limited number of scholarships are available for those who are unable to cover the \$1,500 registration fee.***

### ***How Can I Participate?***

[The application process is open](#). All applicants will be notified about whether they have been selected on or before August 24, 2012.

### ***Questions?***

Please contact Cynthia Hunt Jaehne, Education Manager, at 202.595.1148 or [cjaehne@solarelectricpower.org](mailto:cjaehne@solarelectricpower.org).

#### ***Italy 2011***

"An extraordinary opportunity to understand the challenges and opportunities for solar development in the U.S. and the key role utilities can play in the transition to renewable energy."

- Robert Revelle, Vice President,  
Atlantic City Electric

#### ***Japan 2010***

"The networking was great. The visits to the different organizations stimulated a lot of discussion, not only on what we saw but how it compared to the different approaches we were using at our different Utilities - you can't get this sort of interaction and understanding easily from a conference."

- Stephen Worme, Chief Marketing Officer, Barbados Light & Power Co.

#### ***Spain 2009***

"This was my first exposure to utility scale solar energy. SEPA's program brought my learning curve up exponentially. Not only did I get to witness Solar power of all types, I really benefited from interaction with utility executives from around the globe who shared their practical experience in ways I could immediately understand."

- J. Gary Stauffer, Executive Director, Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska

#### ***Germany 2008***

"SEPA is doing a great job of leading us to where the industry and policy is going, not just where it is today. The perspective from this trip of what is being done elsewhere, and in Germany in particular, is mind expanding."

- Steve Johnson, Executive Director, Washington Public Utilities District Association