



January 2008

Louisiana CleanTech Network – Current Programs and Activities

- The Louisiana CleanTech Network's (LCTN) first two successful initiatives are the Department of Energy Solar America Cities¹ grant to New Orleans and the Southern Building Institute (SBI). The LCTN spearheaded the effort to bring the Solar America Cities (SAC) program to New Orleans, working with the City of New Orleans Office of Recovery Management, Alliance for Affordable Energy, Global Green, FutureProof, and Green Coast Enterprises. The LCTN will now participate with the NO Solar Team and the DOE Tiger teams to fulfill the requirements of the SAC grant. The LCTN will lead an effort to bring the SAC program results to other cities in Louisiana in a timely manner in order to support the needs of a new and growing renewable energy industry in light of the newly passed Louisiana Solar Tax Credits.
- LCTN led an effort and brought together four construction industry professionals to form the non-profit Southern Building Institute. The SBI spearheaded a 2007 effort to apply for a 10 Million dollar DOE Building America grant. The SBI and LCTN are currently working with Stephanie Pedro of the Regional Planning Commission in the effort establish a Construction Center Consortium. The SBI will play an instrumental role in this effort as we build on our relationships and receive support from our DOE grant team members. This effort also involves other Louisiana institutions such as the LSU Agricultural center, UNO, and Southeastern State University. The mission is to have a building science research center located in Southern Louisiana.
- La CleanTech met with DNR in Baton Rouge on Thursday Jan 10 to discuss LCTN's role as the Solar Industry organization. The LCTN received full support from the DNR to move forward in this role. A solar industry meeting was planned on this day and held at DNR on Jan 18, to discuss the solar industry position on the State Tax Credit Rules that govern the residential tax credits. The result of this meeting was the formation of a Louisiana Solar Task Force made up of industry professionals in cooperation with the DNR.
- DNR and LCTN are presently working on plans to present a Solar PV installation and inspection training workshop to Louisiana Code Official in the near future, as well as a series Solar Energy Installer workshops around the state.
- LCTN is lending industry support to Senator Nick Gautreaux, author of the LA Residential Tax Credit, as he authors legislation for the 2008 session that will support Agricultural and Commercial Solar Energy Tax Credits. Nick will also be working on legislation that will support a Louisiana Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS).
- LCTN organized and held a conference call with Solar Installers around the state on Tuesday Jan 15 - The call was co-sponsored by Doug Lagrone with Kyocera Solar (one of the largest solar manufacturers in the world). Eight Solar companies located in eight different Louisiana cities were invited to participate. A wide range of industry development issues were discussed.

¹ http://www1.eere.energy.gov/solar/solar_america/solar_america_cities_awards.html



- LCTN met with the Lafayette Utility System (LUS) – a municipal electric utility - to discuss Net Metering (NM) and interconnection rules. They do not have NM rules in place. LUS agreed to work with LCTN in this process and to allow pilot installations of grid tied PV systems for training of Lafayette code officials and LUS employees until NM rules are in place. LUS will most likely adopt PSC rules and standard NM applications and forms within 60 days. Lafayette City Council, LUS's regulatory agency, must pass a regulatory ordinance. There are 17 other municipally owned utilities that are not regulated by the PSC Net Metering rules. LCTN will work with LEPA to facilitate the adoption of NM rules for all 18 MUNI utilities in Louisiana.
- LCTN is working with Lafayette Economic Development Authority to develop a program for a LCTN to provide Solar Energy Installer training program that will be funded in part by the Incumbent Worker Training Program, Small Business Employer Training. In-state training is necessary for Louisiana businesses to be able to use these statewide workforce-training funds. In 2006 LEDA approached the Louisiana technical colleges and Associated Building Contractors to see if they had any plans to expand their training offerings to include renewable energy installation—but there were no plans at that time. This pilot training program will be developed in Acadiana and then expanded to other areas around the state.
- LCTN is in working with Jim Henderson, VP of Louisiana Community and Technical College Systems to assist LCTCS in developing a Solar Energy Installer training program and an Alternative Energy associate program. Austin Technical College system, and Florida Solar Energy Center are assisting LCTN in the LCTCS training and curriculum development.
- LCTN is working Tammy Morgan the Sustainability and Renewable Energy Coordinator for the City of Baton Rouge (Tammy is an LCTN board nominee and previously a member of the board of the Renewables Council of Louisiana, the predecessor to LCTN). Baton Rouge is in the planing stage to utilize Solar PV for emergency back up power as part of city emergency preparedness measures.
- LCTN is working with Dane Revette (Director, Energy Development for Louisiana Economic Development) and ELOSOLE, LLC, of Clemson ,SC. to facilitate the development of a \$300 Million Solar PV manufacturing plant to be located in New Orleans, Louisiana. The plant is projected to produce 175 MW of solar capacity per year and is projected to be online by 2010 producing approximately 600 jobs and product sales of \$350-\$500 million per year.
- LCTN is working with Von Hatley (Director, Durable Goods) and ThermaDesigns, LLC, of Alabama to locate a green building materials manufacturing company in the Eco-Park of New Orleans, LA. ThermaDesigns produces Cementous Fiber Structurally Insulated Panels (SIPs) for residential home and apartment construction, and has sales offices in England, Africa, and South America. All component SIPs for the erection of house and apartment units will be exported from the port of NO in containers, and also shipped throughout US and Canada. Plant operations are slated to begin in 1st Quarter 2008. First year sales are projected in excess of 100 million dollars.
- LCTN is working with Louisiana Solar Solutions and Lafayette University in the planning of a Solar Energy Installation of 500kW - 1MW to produce solar power for the University.



- Prisca Weems of FutureProof, New Orleans and Forest Bradley-Wright of the Alliance for Affordable Energy, both co-founders of the Eco-Park have partnered with LCTN to advance the mission the Eco-Park², an economic development project designed to establish sustainable construction as a major industry sector in the New Orleans economy.
- LCTN is working with Kevin Boone (Renewable Energy Coordinator, USDA Rural Development Lafayette office) to offer technical help and support in the design and specification of renewable energy (RE) systems for rural businesses. These businesses will be applying for RE loans and grants under the USDA "Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Grant and Loan Guarantee Program."
- Global Green (an international organization) partnered with solar installers Meridian Energy Systems and green industry group Louisiana CleanTech Network to seek out and hire residents of the Holy Cross neighborhood to assist in the installation of a 5kW PV system on the roof of the GG Holy Cross projects first house. Allan Jones, owner of Gal Can Electric was chosen by LCTN to take part in this installation, and to attend an LCTN New Orleans Solar Training class, and will be the first 9th Ward contractor to receive a Louisiana Solar Energy Installer license.

² www.nolaecopark.com