



**MDV-SEIA**

# MD-DC-VA Solar Energy Industries Association

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*Frederick, MD*

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### Executive Director

Peter Lowenthal  
*360jmg*  
*Washington, D.C.*

## Solar Energy Focus 2008

On November 30, 2007, over 300 of the nation's leading national experts and regional business leaders attended this watershed conference in Annapolis, MD. There was a vibrant exchange of information on technology and policies that will assist us in becoming the next major solar energy market in our nation's drive for energy diversification, economic development, and clean energy development.

We chose Annapolis as the site of our first annual conference because earlier last year, on April 24, 2007, Governor Martin O'Malley signed into law an amendment to the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) that allowed solar electric systems to participate in a meaningful capacity to help diversify the state's electric supply. A goal was laid out to have two percent of Maryland's electric supply generated from solar systems by the year 2022, and thereby move Maryland into the top ten states supporting solar energy.

The conference marked the commencement of efforts to achieve this goal. We clarified the process by which the law will be executed and cleared up the remaining definitions and ambiguities so that the solar RPS programs will be clear and concise for the home and business owners who will help achieve this objective. Maryland is setting a milestone for the region, and together we are working to extend these kinds of programs to Delaware, Virginia, and the District of Columbia with the hopes of achieving continued support for solar technologies and progressing the alternative energy economy of the Chesapeake region.

MDV-SEIA will continue to hold annual meetings and other training events as we grow and fulfill the objectives of this law, including the diversification of our energy sources, developing our economy, and creating employment opportunities to deliver clean energy

## Upcoming Events:

### Training Code Officials Event

MDV-SEIA will be hosting a training code officials event on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The training will provide vital information on the design, installation, and

## Maryland Representatives

Richard Deutshmann  
*Chesapeake Solar*  
*Jessup, MD*

Jigar Shah  
Colin Murchie  
*SunEdison*  
*Beltsville, MD*

## D.C. Representatives

Marty Silber  
*Stella Capital*  
*Washington, D.C.*

Allison Archambault  
*Grid Point*  
*Washington, D.C.*

## Virginia Representatives

Mitchel A. King  
*Old Mill Power Co.*  
*Charlottesville, VA*

Jason Fisher  
*Sunpower*  
*Charlottesville, VA*

## Contact Us

<http://www.mdv-seia.org>

[Director@mdv-seia.org](mailto:Director@mdv-seia.org)

dealer development of solar heating and solar electrical systems. Visit the website or contact Peter Lowenthal at [director@mdv-seia.org](mailto:director@mdv-seia.org) for more details. Future trainings dates will be available and can be customized to meet the needs of your company.

## Events in the Community

### **Environment Virginia 2008**



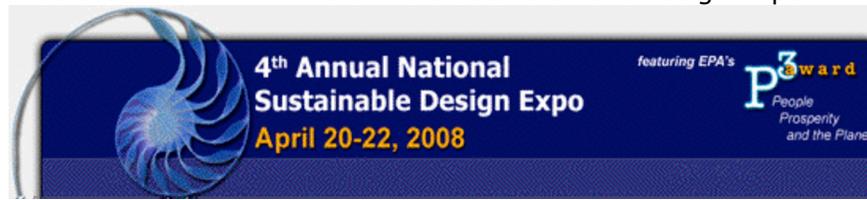
Environment Virginia will be hosting the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Environment Virginia Symposium April 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Virginia Military Institute. The symposium will be driven by the theme "CommonWealth: Accelerating Solutions in a Rapidly Changing Virginia.

Visit [Environment Virginia's website](#) for more details of the symposium.

### **National Sustainable Design Expo**

The Environmental Protection Agency will be hosting the National Sustainable Design Expo April 20<sup>th</sup> – April 22<sup>nd</sup> on the National Mall. The Expo showcases various sustainable technologies shown by more than 50 exhibitors.

Visit the [EPA's website](#) for more details on the Design Expo.



### **Green DC Week 2008 ( More info Below)**

The District Department of the Environment will hold Green DC Week April 21–27, 2008 is a citywide, collaborative effort to educate the people who live, work and learn in the District of Columbia about energy and environmental sustainability. The week will kick off with Green DC Day on April 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Exhibit space is free.



Visit the [DDOE's website](#) for more details on Green DC Day.

### **2008 Piedmont Alternative Energy Expo**

The Rappahannock League for Environmental Protection will be holding its third annual Piedmont Alternative Energy Expo on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. near Warrenton, Virginia.

Visit [RLEP's website](#) for more details of the Expo.



### **Solar 2008 ASES meeting in San Diego**

The American Solar Energy Society will be hosting their annual conference in San Diego, May  
SOL



AR 2008 is the premier technical conference for solar energy and energy efficiency professionals in the U.S. Now in its 37th year, this industry-leading conference series offers you the emerging trends, technological breakthroughs, industry insight, and connections you need to stay ahead.

**With the energy industry changing at an unprecedented pace**, this conference helps you understand the changes and uncover the opportunities. It examines the most timely topics of the day, and introduces you to the industry leaders, innovators, and exhibitors who are shaping the industry, including:

- **Van Jones**, One of the leading visionaries of our time
- **Senator Gary Hart**, International strategic advisor & author
- **Jigar Shah**, Chief Strategy Officer, SunEdison
- **Chris Paine**, Director, Who Killed the Electric Car
- **Julie Blunden** - Vice President, SunPower Corporation
- **Randy Udall**, Co-Founder, Association for the Study of Peak Oil
- **Edward Mazria**, Author, The Passive Solar Energy Book
- **Molly Tirpak Sterkel**, Supervisor, California Solar Initiative
- And dozens of other industry leaders

### **Solar Power Conference and Expo 2008**

The Solar Electric Power Association will be holding its Solar Power Conference and Expo on October 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> in San Diego, California. The exhibit space is currently sold out, but companies can sign up on a waiting list if space opens up between now and the event.

Visit [SEPA's website](#) for more details on the Conference.

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## Panel Policy: Bills Affecting the Solar Industry

Winter 2007/2008 Political Agenda

### MARYLAND

On January 10<sup>th</sup> the new General Assembly will be sworn in and will need to get a bill to expand the grant levels and caps. We hope to suggest \$2,500 per KW up to \$10,000 and a cap of \$20,000 for small commercial systems. As a result, our primary objective will be to pass these legislations – SB-207 and HB-377. The House passed this unanimously, the Senate Budget and taxation has passed it, but the Senate Finance committee has not passed it and has voted 6-5 for an unfavorable report. We need to have this bill reviewed and the re-voted. We have sent out several requests to contact members of the House Appropriations and Senate Budget and Taxation committees to not cut our budget as suggested by the Dept. of Legislative services. While we were successful in the Senate we suffered a cut from \$590,000 to \$300,000 in the House. Tawanda Gaines of PG County is Chair of that Subcommittee and needs to yield to the Senates number or reduce her cut. We will try to meet with her retain any extra unspent funds from the MD Energy Administrations Solar Energy Grant Program.

Meetings with Kevin Hughes from Governor O'Malley's office were held on

March 24<sup>th</sup> directing us to continue to lobby members of the Senate Finance Committee. Senate Budget and Taxation Chairman Currie may be hesitant to bring the bill to the full floor if Chairman of Senate Finance Middleton is very opposed. Middleton cast the tie breaking vote last year for us and seems tired of supporting our issues. We need to reach him to say that this is a portion of what was missing in last year's bill.

We are seeking a meeting with Malcolm Woolf, Director of the MD Energy Office to see what can be done to expand funding should grant funding be cut but grant amounts be increased. Current energy costs and the Governor's steadfast support will awaken political interest and create some movement, however the shortage of state funds to meet the basic needs of citizens is providing lots of competition for funds.

HB 1337 would help establish the Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC). It will be chartered as a state corporation and receive funds from private, non profit, and industry groups. MCEC already has \$1million committed for the construction of an off grid building for the center from Federal funds. The center will not compete for state funds or grants. The MCEC mission is to promote clean energy markets for you to sell your products and to promote business development by supporting local clean energy businesses. MDV-SEIA hopes to provide training and work collaboratively with the center.

Despite the aforementioned setback, MDV-SEIA has scored some major successes in Maryland. Solar systems will now be exempt from the standard 6% sales tax. Also solar systems will be exempt from property tax assessments. Both of these measures will lower the costs to solar energy consumers and lead to an increase in customers.

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:

The DC Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard is re-awakening due to the Legislation proposed by Mary Cheh to restructure how the DC Public Service Commission works and how the DC Energy Office manages the Renewable energy Demonstration project. Meetings with DC Commissioner Rick Morgan, DC Energy Office Director Jack Werner, and Pepco Holdings Company's Steve Sunderhauf have led to the redesigning of the grant program to become more transparent and more routine and hope fully better funded. We are seeking an additional \$300,000 to add to the Current \$150,000

Incentives will be based on system size:

- 1 – 5 kW \$4.00 / Watt
- 5 - 10 kW \$3.00 / Watt
- Greater than 10 kW, less than 20 kW \$2.50 / Watt
- Greater than 20 kW, less than 50 kW \$2.00 / Watt

There will need to be a limit on larger systems until adequate funding is available.

The New DC RPS will become more like a hybrid of the MD and NJ style bill. We are suggesting several changes to the Cheh Bill language. The DC Board representatives, Allison Archambault, and Marty Silber are involved with Colin Murchie and Exec. Director Peter Lowenthal. We have some real opportunities and need to continue to press our case for better programs that will drive sales in DC. Net metering fiasco is largely behind

us now that the commission recognized the error of omission in their ruling.

#### VIRGINIA

[HB153](#) – Solar water heating system pay-as-you-save pilot program

[HB647](#) – Energy production; renewable and alternative tax credit

[HB732](#) – Income tax, corporate and state; energy-efficient equipment tax credit

[HB744](#) – Income tax, state; deduction for energy-efficient equipment

[HB1287](#) – Electric energy conservation; SCC to conduct meeting to establish goals

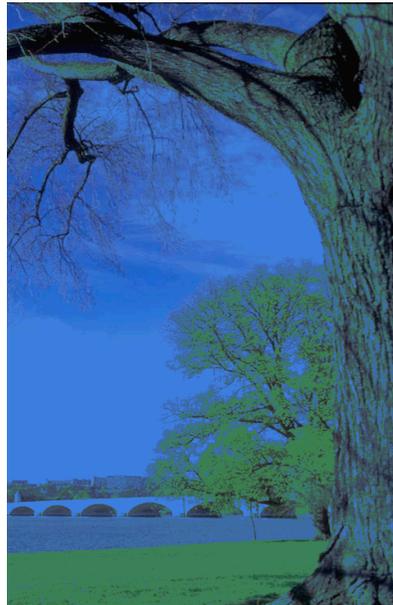
[HB1443](#) – Energy generators; streamlined permitting process for alternative and renewable

[SB320](#) – Solar energy collection devices; covenants restricting solar

[SB446](#) – Clean energy future; electric energy sold to be generated from renewable generation

It appears that SB-320 was the one bill to survive this year in the General Assembly banning the use of restrictive covenants in new home owners associations regulations going forward. No directions were offered for existing rules that restrict solar use by neighborhood associations. More educational work is needed on this issue, and keep in mind we need to hear of these cases as they arise.

**April 21st  
PLAZA  
DC, (9:30 AM -**



**FREEDOM  
Washington  
4:30 PM)**

