



**MDV-SEIA**

# MD-DC-VA Solar Energy Industries Association

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Volume 2, Number 2

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*360jmg  
Washington, D.C.*

## Maryland Representatives

## Solar Energy Conference and Exposition - Focus 2009

Last November 30, 2007, over 300 persons attended our conference to hear some of the nation's leading experts and regional business leaders discuss the future of solar energy in Maryland. This watershed conference held in Annapolis, MD featured a vibrant exchange of information on technology and policies that will assist MD in becoming the next major solar energy market in our nation's drive for energy diversification, economic development, and clean energy development.

For 2008 we have selected the same day which is December 5, 2008 and again we selected Annapolis as the site with the hopes of attracting Governor Martin O'Malley who has succeeded in passing legislation to an amendment and expand the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), increase the solar energy grant program and exempt solar technology from state use and sales taxes. These laws in unison should help solar electric systems to participate in a meaningful capacity to help diversify the state's electric supply. The grants will also support the expansion of the solar water heating industry to continue to displace electricity and natural gas use for water heating.

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. In addition, the solar energy grant program supported by MD Energy Administration will continue to support the use of solar thermal technologies for residential systems at this time.

This conference will provide us with the opportunity to provide feedback on how things have progressed once the program is operational. We are hopeful that the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, RGGI, will forward some funding to provide for grants and 15 year SREC payments by the time of this event. This will be an important opportunity to discuss our successes and for 2009 as we move towards achieving these goals.

We are currently continuing to clarify the process by which the law will be executed and clear 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

Richard Deutschmann  
*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)

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

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## **MDV-SEIA Upcoming Events:**

### **Training Code Officials Event**

MDV-SEIA will be hosting a training of electrical code officials event in the Fall of 2008. The training will provide vital information for code officials and installers who seek to comply with codes and get them on the same page. Discussion will follow electrical code design, installation, and 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.

**SOLAR ENERGY: Conference and Exposition Focus:**  
2009 December 5-6, 2008

### **Events in the Community**

#### **VIRGINIA**



# **COVES 2008**

**REGISTER  
SPONSOR  
CONTACT US**

## **Commonwealth of Virginia**

**MDV-SEIA WOULD like to exhibit at this event.  
We are seeking a Sponsor to help support this**

# Energy & Sustainability Conference

September 17-19, 2008 Greater Richmond Convention Center

More information: [www.vsbnet.org](http://www.vsbnet.org)

## MARYLAND

### Carroll County

The Maryland Heartland

2008 Sustainable Living Fair May 24, 2008

Maryland Association of Agricultural Fairs

<http://www.maafs.com/2008/FILES/2008Schedule.htm>

july fairs

**9 - 13**

### Baltimore County 4-H Fair (M)

Janice Coroneos

1801 Ridgeway Avenue, Lutherville, MD 21093

410-252-2601

Website: [www.baltimorecounty4hfair.org](http://www.baltimorecounty4hfair.org)

**18 - 24**

### Washington County Ag Expo & Fair (C)

Hal Spielman

7313 Sharpesburg Pike, Boonesboro, MD 21713

mailing address: P.O. Box 681 Sharpesburg, MD 21782

301-432-6854

Website: [www.agexpoandfair.org](http://www.agexpoandfair.org)

**20 - 27**

### Allegany County Fair and Ag Expo (B)

Kevin Kamauf

PO Box 457, Cumberland, MD 21501

301-729-1200 301-729-7873 (fax)

[kkamauf@allconet.org](mailto:kkamauf@allconet.org)

**17 - 26**

### Delaware State Fair (X)

Dennis Hazzard, CFE

503 Caulk Road, Milford, DE 19963

302-258-3797 (cell)  
djfairman@verizon.net  
Website: [www.delawarestatefair.com](http://www.delawarestatefair.com)

**18 - 26**

**Cecil County Fair (O)**

Debbie Harris  
PO Box 84, Childs, MD 21916  
410-392-3440 410-398-8934 (fax)  
[generalinfo@cecilcountyfair.org](mailto:generalinfo@cecilcountyfair.org)  
Website: [www.cecilcountyfair.org](http://www.cecilcountyfair.org)

**24 - 27**

**Harford County Farm Fair**

Joan Ryder  
PO Box 22, Bel Air, MD 21916  
410-838-8663

**26 - Aug. 1**

**Carroll County 4-H/FFA Fair (E)**

Lynn Talbert  
700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD 21157  
410-848-3247 410-876-0132 (fax)  
Website: [www.carrollcountyfair.com](http://www.carrollcountyfair.com)



august  
fairs

**6 - 10**

**Caroline County Fair (R)**

Joanne Wooters  
207 S. Third Street, Denton, MD 21629  
410-479-0565  
Website: [www.carolinecountyfair.com](http://www.carolinecountyfair.com)

**2 - 9**

**Howard County Fair (L)**

Bettina S. Catalano  
2210 Fairgrounds Road, West Friendship, MD 21794  
410-442-1022 410-489-4427 (fax)

bc9@umail.umd.edu

**11 - 16**

**Queen Anne's County Fair (Q)**

Charlene Rhodes

PO Box 292, Queenstown, MD 21658

410-827-9065

Website: [www.queenannescofair.com](http://www.queenannescofair.com)

**8 - 16**

**Montgomery County Agricultural Fair (F)**

Ron Magaha

16 Chestnut Street, Gaithersburg, MD 20877

301-926-3100 301-926-1532 (fax)

Website: [www.mcagfair.com](http://www.mcagfair.com)

**9 -16**

**Garrett County Agricultural Fair (A)**

Roger Glodfelty, Jr.

134 Mason School Road, McHenry, MD 21541

301-387-5408

**21 - 23**

**Great Pocomoke Fair (W)**

John W. Smith, President

PO Box 304

Pocomoke City, MD 21851

443-614-3044 or 410-632-3998

[Chamber@pocomoke.com](mailto:Chamber@pocomoke.com)

Website: [www.thegreatpocomokefair.org](http://www.thegreatpocomokefair.org)

**21 - Sept. 1**

**Maryland State Fair & Ag Society (M)**

Andy Cashman

PO Box 188, Timonium, MD 21094

410-252-0200

410-561-5610 (fax)

[msfair@msn.com](mailto:msfair@msn.com)

Website: [www.marylandstatefair.com](http://www.marylandstatefair.com)



# September fairs

**4 - 7**

**Prince George's County Fair (G)**

Paul Harris, Pres.

PO Box 1010, Upper Marlboro, MD 20773

301-579-2598 301-579-6767 (fax)

Website: [www.countyfair.org](http://www.countyfair.org)

**5 - 7**

**Damascus Community Fair (F)**

Beth Smith

10211 Lewis Drive, Damascus, MD 20872

301-607-8280

Website: [www.damascusfair.org](http://www.damascusfair.org)

**5 - 7**

**Thurmont & Emmitsburg Com. Show (D)**

Rodman Myers

15727 Smith Road, Thurmont, MD 21788

301-271-2104

**10 - 14**

**Anne Arundel County Fair (K)**

John Kozenski, Jr.

PO Box 372, Crownsville, MD 21032

410-923-3400 301-923-6305

[info@aacountyfair.org](mailto:info@aacountyfair.org)

Website: [www.aacountyfair.org](http://www.aacountyfair.org)

**11 - 14**

**Charles County Fair (H)**

Jim Arnold

PO Box 968, La Plata, MD 20646

301-932-1234 301-934-6221 (fax)

[charlescountyfair@aol.com](mailto:charlescountyfair@aol.com)

**12 - 14**

**Eastern National Livestock Show (M)**

Debbie Nelson

MD State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD 21094

410-838-1193

**12 - 20**

**The Great Frederick Fair (D)**

Becky Brashear, CFE

PO Box 604, 797 East Patrick Street,  
Frederick MD 21701  
301-663-5895 301-6639719 (fax)  
[bbrashear@thegreatfrederickfair.com](mailto:bbrashear@thegreatfrederickfair.com)  
Website: [www.thegreatfrederickfair.com](http://www.thegreatfrederickfair.com)

**18 - 21**

**St. Mary's County Fair (I)**

Josephine Scully  
PO Box 243, Leonardtown, MD 20650  
301-475-2256

**24 - 26**

**Glade Valley Community Show (D)**

Harold Roderuck  
20 Glade Road, Walkersville, MD 21793  
301-898-7133

**24 - 28**

**Calvert County Fair (J)**

Debbie Mister  
PO Box 224, Barstow, MD 20610  
410-535-0026 410-535-3109  
[Calvertfair@aol.com](mailto:Calvertfair@aol.com)

**REGIONAL and NATIONAL  
Mid-West Renewable Energy Association, Custer, WI**



Join us for the 19th annual **Energy Fair** June 20-22, 2008. The Fair will be held at MREA's headquarters, the ReNew the Earth Institute, located at 7558 Deer Road in Custer, WI.



**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](http://SEPA's website) for more details on the Conference.

## Policy Panel: Bills and Regulations Affecting the Solar Market

### MARYLAND

After a victorious legislative session, with the exception of the Governor's Climate Change bill, we have much to celebrate and prepare for in the upcoming summer and fall. The RPS was expanded overall which did not impact solar, since we had expanded the year prior. However, we were able to win by one vote from Sen. John Astle in the Senate Finance committee to expand the grants for residential solar systems from \$2,500 per kW up to \$10,000. In addition, we were able to bump solar heating systems to 30% or \$3,000, whichever is less, and Geothermal heat pumps can now qualify for \$1,000 per ton up to 3 tons or \$3,000 per unit. All these grants will be funded from the same \$590,000 pot which is likely to run dry shortly after the grants are available. In fact, those grants currently in the application process that complete installation and submit completion certificates on or after July 1, 2008, can qualify for the increased funding levels as they will be considered a continuation of the current program.

We are seeking a meeting with Malcolm Woolf, Director of the MD Energy Office to see what can be done to implement the legislation that was passed. Although, there are gaps in just how that legislation is to operate. Energy cost projections and the growing consumer awareness is increasing and the need for general consumer education on how and RPS works is an important factor in opening markets.

HB 1337 was also approved and signed establishing the Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC). It will be chartered as a state corporation and can receive funds from private, non profit, and industry groups. MCEC already has \$1 million 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.

MDV-SEIA, with the help from BP Solar lobbyists, Bryson Popham, loyal lobbyist Jack Neil, and many MDV-SEIA members, is now poised with a dual program: a solar energy grant mechanism funded at \$590,000 for residential Photovoltaics, solar water heating and geothermal heat pumps and the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard RPS; and the solar requirements that require utilities to supply a portion of their energy from solar sources and to report compliance annually to the State Public Service Commission. How the SREC's trading will work for smaller producers remains to be established.

SREC's are to be established by PJM-EIS and then aggregated by MEA or



other private entities such as Clean Power Markets. This is an important decision to be made by the MD Public service Commission.

MDV-SEIA issued comments to the MD PSC with Clean Power Markets, an aggregator of Solar Credits in NJ, on the issue of aggregation of renewable energy credits. We also issued comments to MD Energy Administration in regards to providing a payment mechanism for the up front purchase of 15 years of SREC's that are specified in the legislation but not implemented in the rules making by the Commission. Final Steps include follow up meeting with MEA regarding the 15 year sale of RECs to MEA and how they can be funded. The new percentages for the Grants are in effect although. Should you need applications forms you can email [info@mdv-seia.org](mailto:info@mdv-seia.org). County incentives have been established in Harford, Anne Arundel Howard and Montgomery Countries, they typically can rollover for two or even three years if the property taxes are not enough to expense it in one year.

### ***DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA***

The District of Columbia (DC) also features a dual approach program, SREC's and a residential grant program.

The DC Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard is re-awakening due to the legislation proposed by Mary Cheh to restructure the RPS for a solar carve out with a significant increase in the non-compliance payment, from \$.30 to \$0.80 per kW. The bill also addresses How the DC Public Service Commission manages the Reliable energy trust funds collected for the publics benefit and will empower the DC Energy Office to manage a similar fund for efficiency and renewable energy programs and hopefully will expand the Renewable Energy Demonstration project to \$2M next year. 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 Renewable Energy Demonstration program to become more transparent and more routine and hopefully better funded. We are seeking an additional \$350,000 to add to the current funding of \$150,000 but will roll out the \$150,000 to remain active in August. Proposals will be accepted in July and reservation numbers will be issued if funding is not available to all. Application will stop once funding is exhausted.

Fiscal year ends on September 30th so grant commitment letters will need to be issued before that date and responses within 10 days. Incentives will be the same as MD based on system a size not to exceed 4 kW. And we expect to provide \$2.50 per W maximum grant will be \$10,000 we are hoping for smaller systems to create more grantees.

Larger commercial systems will continue to be installed based on the value of their SREC's and the energy they generate and any federal incentives. We are working to clear up those issues in the Cheh

Legislation and assure that adequate funding is available for the REDP program for residential customers.

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 Executive 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. The net metering fiasco is largely behind us now that the commission recognized the error of omission in their ruling.

### ***VIRGINIA***

There were many bills introduced in the VA State General Assembly last session but of all these only one passed and was signed into law.

**SB320** - Solar energy collection devices; covenants restricting solar

It appears that SB-320 was the one bill to survive this year in the General Assembly banning the use of restrictive covenants in the new home owner association's 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.


MDV-SEIA is supportive of several members' efforts to revive the VA ASES chapter and would like to collaborate with that effort. We will attend the VA Sustainable Building Network event on June 25<sup>th</sup> And hope to meet with other VA potential members. We are committed to transplanting the success in MD and DC to VA, in spite of the obstacles and barriers imposes by those who are well entrenched in the politics of energy in Richmond. However, the people want solar and they will want their government to make it affordable.

Late UPDATE: Peter Lowenthal and Mitch King attended the VSBN annual conference and were able to Greet Gov. Kaine after his presentation. The Governor said that next year was to be his big Push for Energy and the Environment and that he new the voluntary had some weak spots that needed repairing. If there are problems we go to fix it. He mentioned that Steve Walz and his chief of staff are the key point persons on energy issues.

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### **Board of Directors and other leaders hold retreat in Kensington MD on MAY 1, 2008.**

During this meeting we established some new wording around the Mission of MDV-SEIA and setup committees to work on specific topics the committees and their leaders and member are as follows,



Governance and Administration: Richard Deutschmann

Finance: Albert Nunez, Gary Honig

Membership Allison Archambault, Tony Clifford, Fariborz Mahjouri,

Conference: Jigar Shah, Norm Lutkefedder, Albert Nunez, Bill Rever

Events and Training: Kerinia Cusick, Richard Deutschmann,