



SOLAR FOCUS 2017 AWARD WINNERS

KEY PLAYERS IN THE MID-ATLANTIC SOLAR INDUSTRY RECEIVE AWARDS ACROSS SIX CATEGORIES

WASHINGTON, DC, November 15 – Last week, hundreds of solar professionals from across the Mid-Atlantic and beyond gathered at the Renaissance DC Downtown Hotel for Solar Focus 2017, an annual conference hosted by the Maryland-DC-Delaware-Virginia Solar Energy Industries Association (MDV-SEIA). During a luncheon on November 8, the event's second day, MDV-SEIA presented awards recognizing outstanding local solar professionals and organizations that are advancing the state of the industry through innovation, advocacy, and leadership.

Mark Rubin, who serves as the Executive Director of the Virginia Center for Consensus Building at Virginia Commonwealth University, was this year's Solar Champion for his mediation of Virginia policy discussions between MDV-SEIA, electric utilities, environmental advocates, and other stakeholder groups. The participants of these discussions, now collectively known as the Rubin Group, were able to identify shared goals and arrived at consensus solutions thanks to Rubin's guidance. In 2017, the process led to the passage of three clean energy bills in Virginia.



*Mark Rubin accepts his award from Chris Ercoli,
President of the MDV-SEIA Board*

The Solar Advocate award was given to Mike Volpe, who has been instrumental in leading policy development and advocacy work in both Maryland and Virginia. In addition to providing critical analysis to Virginia solar policy advocacy, Volpe worked to develop consensus on a 50% RPS bill in Maryland among various segments of the renewables industry. Volpe, who was unable to attend the conference due to extenuating circumstances, was represented by his colleague David Savage, who accepted the award.

Sigora Solar was recognized as the Solar Corporate Leader for 2017. Based in Charlottesville, VA, Sigora Solar earned its leadership status not only for its contributions to the solar industry, but also for its philanthropic work. Sigora Solar raised over \$28k from staff and residential clients for hurricane relief, and recently gave \$3,150 to Backpack Buddies of Central Virginia, which collects and fills backpacks for children in need. As far as the company's industry work, Sigora Solar was chosen as part of an initiative to bring solar to Southwest Virginia, called Solarize Wize, as well as for the NEED Project's Solar for Students program, which installs solar arrays outside of schools so that students can have the opportunity to learn about solar energy through hands-on experience.

Several solar projects were also recognized at the conference, including Standard Solar's 2.1 MW project at Delaware Technical Community College. Standard Solar installed a total of eight ground- and roof-mounted systems, including roof-mounted arrays shading carports at the Wilmington and Terry campuses. The Delaware Tech system is one of the largest in the state and will offset 12 percent of the college's total energy needs.



Nicole Steele, Executive Director of GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic, accepts the LMI Project of the Year award

The LMI Solar Project of the Year award was given to GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic for its work at Sun Crest Heights, an affordable living apartment complex in Capitol Heights, Maryland. The 250kW system is the largest rooftop residential installation in Prince George’s County, and will provide up to 99% of the complex’s electricity needs. This will cover 40% of tenant’s electric bills, as well as fund energy efficient upgrades to the building.

Finally, the Solar Innovation of the Year award went to Capital Sun Group for their Enser Morris Hybrid PV/ Solar Thermal Heat Pump (PV/T/ HP) System. The hybrid PV/T HP project maximizes roof-mounted solar energy

collection utilizing a sandwiched dual collector system and a combination of high-performance PV panels and thermal panels. The system has provided unprecedented levels of load-coverage for water heating, A/C, and heat, covering approximately 75.3% of electricity needs for clients.

David Murray, Executive Director at MDV-SEIA, concluded the luncheon, stating that he was “incredibly proud of the Solar Focus award winners for their ingenuity, community involvement, and doing their part to grow the solar industry and protect the planet with passion and innovation.”



The Standard Solar team accepts the Solar Project of the Year award for their work at Delaware Technical Community College

The Maryland-DC-Delaware-Virginia Solar Energy Industries Association (MDV-SEIA) represents manufacturers, installers, developers, distributors and component suppliers of solar power. MDV-SEIA delivers on policy formation and advocacy, market representation, networking, education, and additional benefits to our 180+ members representing over 10,000 direct jobs implementing long term clean, solar electricity generation in our region.

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Contact: David Murray – director@mdvseia.org – 202.780.9563