

Solar Workshop for Municipal Employees

Agenda

May 13: Roper Mountain Science Center, Greenville

May 14: SCANA Headquarters, Cayce

May 15: North Charleston City Hall, N. Charleston

9:30 – 9:45 **Welcome and Introductions**

9:45 – 10:00 **Plenary: The Changing Landscape for Solar in SC**

Representatives from the local utility will give a brief overview of changes expected from the Distributed Energy Resources Program Act. We will hear from utility representatives about their new programs aimed at increasing solar energy production and how that could affect local governments.

10:15 – 10:30 **Plenary: Solar 101—Common Terms and Procedures**

This session will provide a brief overview of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, solar thermal systems, concentrated solar power installations, and passive solar design, as well as basic terminology, so that all participants share a common understanding.

10:30 – 10:45 **Break**

*(At this time, first responders will move off-site to a nearby solar installation for a hands-on demonstration and session led by the State Fire Academy. See inset box below for session topics and times**)*

10:45 – 11:30 **Planning for Solar: Are Existing Ordinances and Plans Adequate?**

How does solar fit in with your community's vision and existing plans? What competing priorities need to be considered? Do ordinances need modifying to provide clear use permissions and complimentary development regulations?

11:30 – 11:45 **Identifying Goals: Why Permitting Reform?**

In light of the information presented earlier in the day regarding the growing solar market in South Carolina, we will explore reasons why solar permitting reform is worth considering for municipalities in the state.

11:45 – 12:45 **Identifying Successful Approaches—Part I**

We will begin by identifying key principles for permitting reform, based on Best Practices identified by IREC and The Vote Solar Initiative. Then we will investigate ways to simplify the first two steps of the permitting process:

- *Pre-application materials; and*
- *Application form, submittal and fees*

We will rely on successful approaches in other jurisdictions to identify ways to modify permitting processes locally that benefit both the permitting jurisdiction and the solar industry.

12:45 – 1:15 **LUNCH**

Once people get their food, we will continue with the presentation.

1:15 PM – 2:15 Identifying Successful Approaches—Part II

We will continue our discussion of application submittal and review, and will then look at successful approaches to simplifying the last stage of the permitting process: inspections. As with Part I above, we will be focused on win-win solutions for the permitting jurisdiction and the solar industry.

2:15 PM – 2:45 Regional Coordination: Examples & Discussion

We will discuss the value of regional coordination on improving the permitting process and facilitate discussion on opportunities for collaboration.

2:45 PM – 3:00 Wrap-Up

****First Responder Track**

As solar becomes more commonplace on homes and businesses, first responders will need to know what to look for when approaching buildings with solar arrays. This session will take place on-site at a local solar installation and will walk participants through the parts of a solar array, what constitutes a solar energy system, and how to disable them in case of fire.

10:45 – 11:00	Why Are We Here? Words of Advice from the Field
11:00 – 11:30	What do the Fire Codes say about Solar?
11:30 – 12:15	Putting Knowledge into Practice
12:15 – 1:00	Lunch & Discussion of Fire Academy Continuing Education
1:00 – 2:00	Hands-On View of a Solar Installation
2:00	Wrap Up