
2008 Solar Annual Review Meeting

Session: PV MT Activities Solar America Board for Codes and Standards



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Solar America Board for Codes and Standards





FY08 Progress Report

Solar ABCs Mission

The *Solar ABCs* identifies current issues, establishes a dialogue among key stakeholders, and catalyzes appropriate activities to support the development of codes and standards that facilitate the installation of high quality, safe photovoltaic systems.



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Solar ABCs Steering Committee



NREL



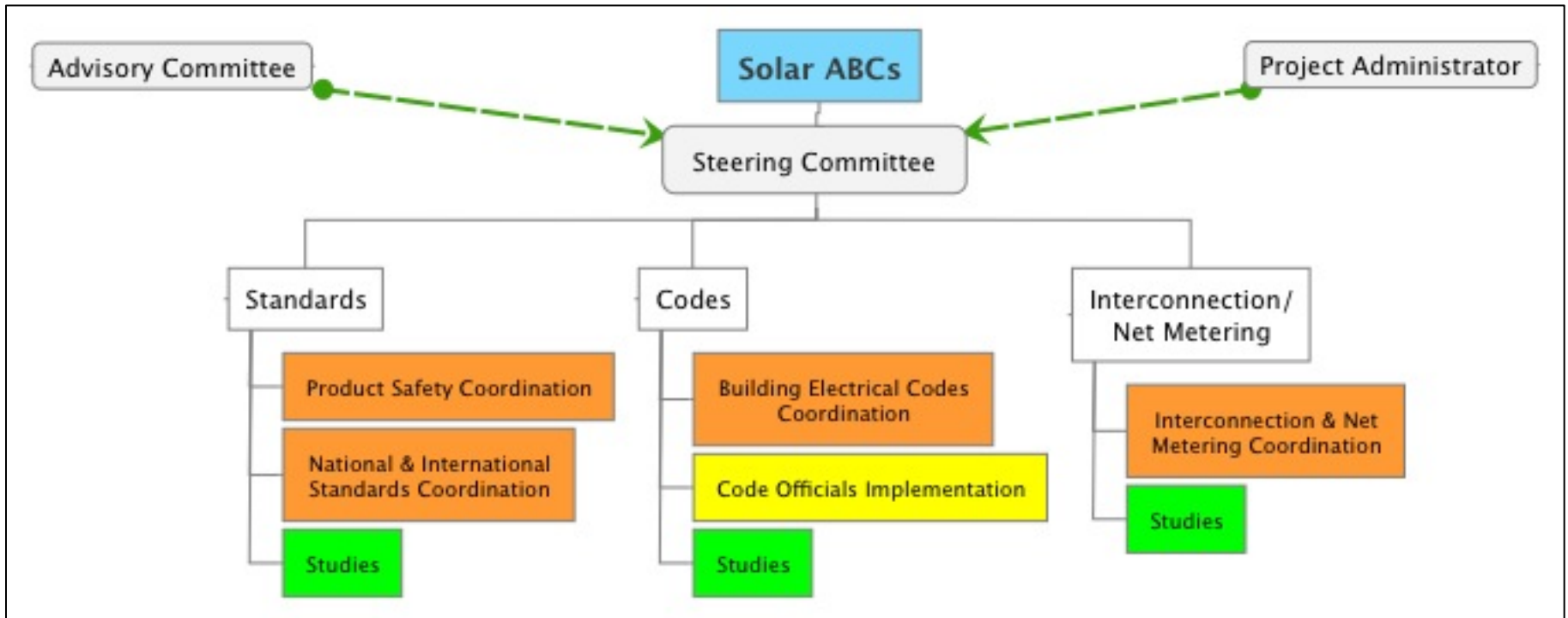
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SHERWOOD ASSOCIATES



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www.solarabcs.org

- Go to Members, sign-up and receive newsletter, information on meetings, and Solar ABCs updates



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Standards Concerns Addressed by Solar ABCs

- Arc Fault Interrupter Requirements
- PV and Polymerics Materials Test Methods
- PV Cell Performance Standards
- Integration of national and international standards
- Develop national and international standards



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Codes Concerns Addressed by Solar ABCs

- Fire Safety Guidelines
- Code Official Training
- Amendments to the 2011 National Electrical Code
- Expedited Local Permitting
- Solar Access and Solar Rights Laws
- Model Code for High Wind Regions



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Interconnection and Net Metering Concerns Addressed by Solar ABCs

- Advanced Metering Infrastructure and Net Metering
- Utility External Disconnect Switch
- Rating of Interconnection Models



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Solar ABCs Example Activities

Solar ABCs Responds to New Fire Safety Code Obstacles

- **First Obstacle**

Fire Safety Code as proposed by Los Angeles would increase costs and decrease potential size of PV installations.

- **Solar ABCs Activity**

Participated in meetings with the California Fire Marshall and CalSEIA and helped broker improved Fire Safety Guidelines for use by California jurisdictions

- **Second Obstacle**

UL White Book may give the impression that a lower Fire Class module will reduce the performance of a higher Fire Class roof.

- **Solar ABCs Activity**

Support R&D on interaction between PV modules and roof during fire.



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Solar ABCs Example Activity

- **Obstacle**
- Advanced Metering Infrastructure planned by many utilities can change impacts of net metering policies
- **Solar ABCs Study**
- *The Potential Impact of Advanced Metering Infrastructure On Net Metering Policy*
- **Recommendations**
- Policies for regulators, legislators, utilities to reduce or eliminate potential negative impact of Advanced Metering Infrastructure.



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Solar ABCs Example Activity

- **Obstacle**
- Permitting requirements vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction and are often overly complex and burdensome.

- **Solar ABCs Study**
- *Expedited Permitting*

- **Recommendations**
- Procedures to facilitate timely and efficient permitting of PV systems by building inspectors and other jurisdiction officials.



Gap Analysis Process

- Input from Stakeholders through Meetings and Electronic Communications
 - 400 Stakeholders
 - Over 80 topics suggested
- Review and Prioritized by Solar ABCs Advisory Committee
 - Solar industry
 - Utilities
 - State Government
- Final Review and Prioritization by Solar ABCs Steering Committee
- 11 High Priority Topics Identified



Obstacles and Goals

FY09 and Beyond:

Topics Identified by Gap Analysis as future priority activities

Standards

- Standardization of Module Power Rating
- System Energy Performance Standard
- Inverter Meter Standard
- PV module frame grounding issues
- Generic method for testing clips
- Accelerated life testing for safety, reliability and durability of modules and the components used in modules



Obstacles and Goals

FY09 and Beyond:

Items Identified by Solar ABCs Gap Analysis as future priority topics

Codes

- National Fire Safety Guidelines for roof-top PV systems
- Roof-top PV module-specific fire research, testing and ratings systems
- Revising building codes to address PV specifically

Interconnection and Net Metering

- Update FERC Interconnection Screens
- Rate Impact of Net Metering