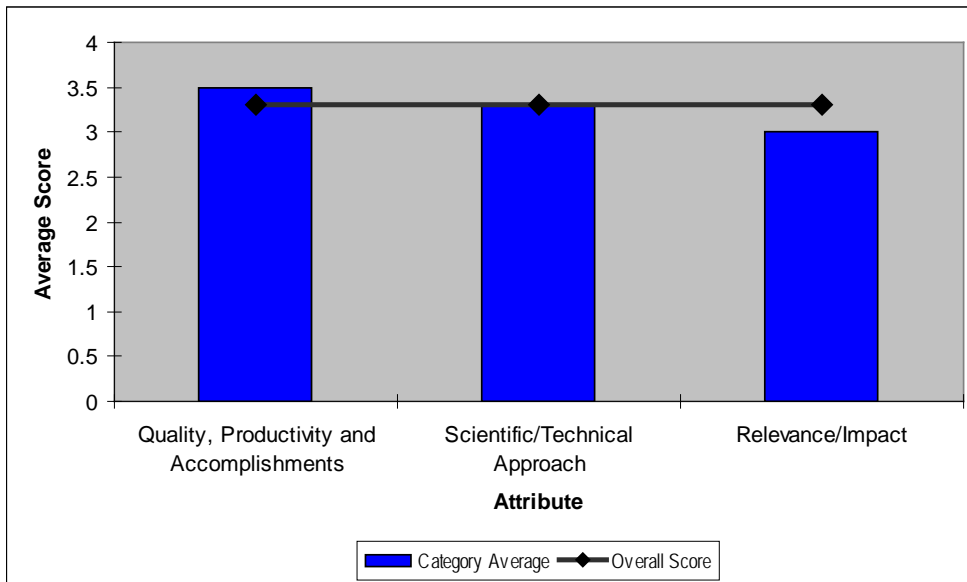


Technical Partnerships

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Project overview of the roles of NREL and SNL in the Solar America Cities, Solar America Showcases, and U.S. Government Solar Installation Program (GSIP) partnerships. The labs’ role in these partnerships includes technical assistance in Solar America Showcase and Solar America City awardees; collaboration with developers to facilitate PV installations on federally-owned buildings; implementation of PV installer training; and

assessment of solar mapping tools.

Quality, Productivity and Accomplishments (Average Rating 3.5)

Rating Comments

- 4.0 The labs have a very strong, quality technical team. The ability to focus this level of assistance to address technical concerns at the Cities can help to overcome technical barriers quickly.
- 4.0 The assembled team and the productivity appear to be top notch. The level of cost share is remarkably good as well albeit for other government agencies, perhaps an effort at cost share from NGOs or private would good.
- 3.0
 - The primary project objective is to assist municipalities and government agencies with the implementation of solar projects both to meet federal installation goals and to build a sustainable solar installation infrastructure into municipal clean energy plans.
 - The project involves key technical personnel (“tiger teams”) from the national labs and contracted sources. The project represents a major investment by the DOE program in direct grants to cities and funding to the national labs and consultants. It is still too early to ascertain the overall productivity of the investment.
- 3.0 Leveraged impact of the team is high although I would like to see a more structured framework within which all the players have well defined roles. Right now, the partners to this team can best be described as an eco-system of interrelated bodies on a common purpose – to capture the power of the sun through any means necessary. For some odd reason, this seems to work in its own rather chaotic way, much like a natural eco-system; from a business standpoint, one must confess irritation with the outcome of this approach. Basically the teams seem to self-organize.

As for Quality, Productivity and Accomplishments, the entire SAC is a testament to the team and it's approach. Very solid, with some areas for improvement. Although natural systems seem chaotic they actually are very functionally organized and can be described. So to with this team; they need to better describe their eco-system in order to better assess the quality, productivity and output of their team.

Scientific/Technical Approach (Average Rating 3.3)

Rating	Comments
4.0	Relative to other MT projects, the budget for this program is relatively high. Also, as with the others, an important goal should be to build the local capability to address technical questions in PV and use Lab staff to address longer term and more complicated issues.
3.0	“The goal of the Solar America Initiative is to make energy from solar photovoltaics (PV) cost-competitive” While this was an initiative with narrow boundaries to PV only I believe that it is important to develop at the onset dialogue with the cities to assure alignment with the city and the program to accomplish local objectives. Now more than ever a reassessment of focus should be done. Conservation and efficiency, solar thermal, small wind and small hydro may provide more jobs than energy from photovoltaics, a greater return on the tax payers cost share. While working on the PV including other technologies along for the ride would be a good thing. Not just recognizing this is true but acting on it and showing significant results. The work done to date may need to be realigned with the current market conditions. New business models, new forms of incentives and new deployment partners all have changed the way the program could be run going forward. The good management and talent on hand will assure good results I am sure.
3.0	It is clear that the project approach has been meticulously planned along with the “tiger teams” development.
3.0	There does not seem to be a strong technical approach – basically through all the ants into a bag and hope they build tunnels, nests, etc. Seems to work and I can't argue with the results, although again I am puzzled as to the “why.”

Relevance/Impact (Average Rating 3.0)

Rating	Comments
3.0	There will be a positive impact from the focused effort to address technical questions quickly.
3.0	The program goals of PV as the primary technology is too narrow. I think early into discussions or as an adjustment to business going forward goals and objectives should be defined with the partner cities. Solar can be the primary focus identifying barriers for other renewable technologies similar to the solar barriers, (rising tide floats all boats) helping other technologies as the program evolves.
3.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project is limited in scope to 25 large cities. How can this program be replicated for and the information disseminated to a broader set of (smaller) cities? • Are there measurable success metrics for this project? To what extent does the development of a sustainable solar installation infrastructure “trickle down” to non-public installations (e.g. businesses and homeowners) within a participating city? That is, do we see measurably higher rates of non-public installations in participating cities than in non-participating cities?
3.0	Impact of the team is high as all the efforts are grounded in “real world” efforts. Overall this team has established a great framework for action by other teams. Greater visibility into project flows and timelines would facilitate understanding of the quantitative aspects of the research.

Overall (Average Rating 3.30)

Rating	Comments
3.0	There is a need to tie all of the MT outreach activities together under one coordinating contractor. As mentioned above, articulation of an exit strategy – or plan for the program is important at this stage in order to judge goal achievement.
3.0	Good work and a wide market covered. I would like to see some tracking of what are the top issues (request for assistance) and where the gaps are. Hopefully the gaps keep changing and they become footnotes to what were barriers. Additionally as the cities become more advanced tracking of their satisfaction based on their expectations going into the program. Perhaps only Solar America Cities can be Solar America Cities AFTER they have become Efficiency America Cities...Just an idea.
3.0	This project has the potential to be a catalyst for accelerating municipal and federal solar projects but it needs a set of formal metrics to determine overall success relative to the large program investment.
4.0	Overall this team has delivered one of the most effective frameworks for creative transformation of the current market environment.