State and Stakeholder Outreach

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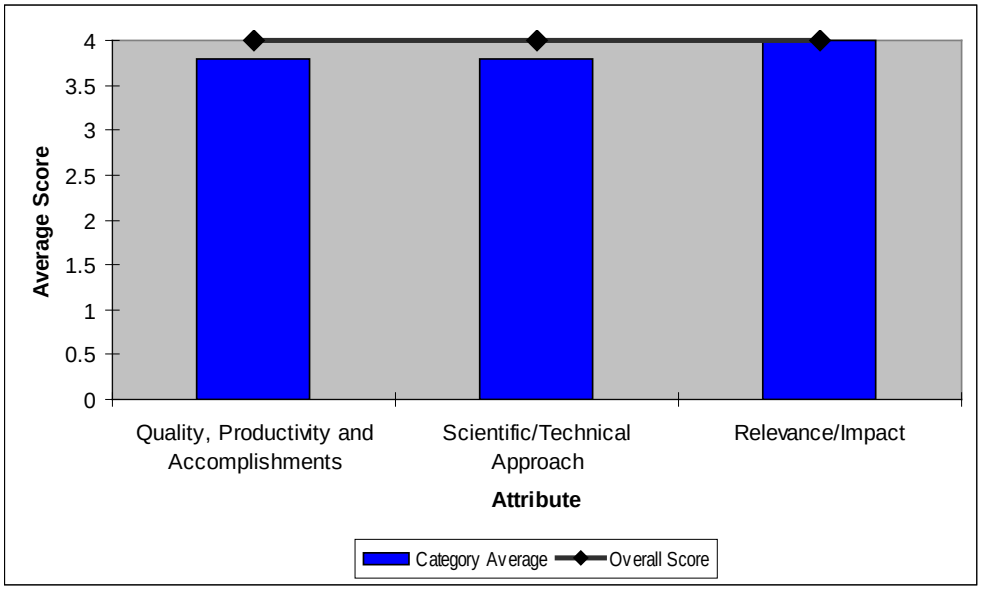

This project supports outreach activities of the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC), which include workforce development, dissemination of information, and development of best practices. IREC focus is on three outcomes: reduced costs of renewable energy; elimination of barriers and constraints to deployment; and increased public acceptance.

Quality, Productivity and Accomplishments (Average Rating 3.8)

Rating	Comments
4.0	Excellent team
4.0	Delivered work products, support in key areas needed for change, technical and management are all high quality.
4.0	• IREC has created a "virtual organization," which allows an overwhelming percentage of the budget to go toward productive activities rather than project administration. • Over the years, IREC has developed a solid network of solar regulatory and technical expertise.
3.0	IREC continues to deliver some of the most valuable work in the Market Transformation realm – from a quality, productivity and accomplishment standpoint IREC's work really stands out. The work is focused, executed well, and delivered consistently. In particular: - IREC's attention to detail in their work on interconnection standards has set the conditions in place for true market transformation. IREC state by state focus is exactly what's needed in the absence of a national effort. - IREC's Net Metering work is outstanding and on par with their equally excellent interconnection work. - IREC's Workforce Development efforts are appropriate given the budgetary numbers. IREC should consider an "on the ground" outreach program directly accessible on a targeted "swing" community basis to improve overall impact. - IREC's overall communications efforts are strong and continue to positively impact the market transformation effort as a whole. I would like to specific "extended reach" touch point analysis measured against a current base to more effectively manage message penetration.

Scientific/Technical Approach (Average Rating 3.8)

Rating	Comments
4.0	Good communication and outreach for the technical aspects of the programs. Bringing nationally/internationally recognized standards into training adds a good amount of credibility. These programs will have a major impact on market growth.
4.0	The approach and methods used to deliver on the task are all done well. I would think with the excellent work produced it would be and example for others to follow or allow for expanding the scope to other renewable technologies.
4.0	IREC has developed a solid technical approach of addressing the regulatory issues of net metering and interconnection and workforce development through state working groups and various educational organizations.
3.0	IREC's work tends to be more qualitative than quantitative in nature. This can make measurement more difficult. That said, it's clear the work has clear quantitative guidelines behind it, as much of the work is measured with specific outcomes. This leads one to believe that these outcomes are compared to specific targets at the outset. It would be useful to the evaluator to understand the target vs the actual outcome, and the process by which those targets are established.

Relevance/Impact (Average Rating 4.0)

Rating	Comments
4.0	Workforce efforts are very important and IREC lead the way in devising a quality program. While the momentum is starting to pick up in the program, it is not too early to think about the next phase of WFD. This could include programs to support the infrastructure that is being established.
4.0	The work required in the months and years ahead will be a challenge with the challenges in delivering information, adapting to the economic conditions and likely increased interest in renewable energy. I hope the leadership can find the resources to expand their capabilities and meet the need for market transformation. I believe continued efforts to elevate the interest in solar thermal energy will expand and they can be a voice for an overlooked technology. As it relates to overall strategy and societal benefits I think it is important to keep the relative importance of photovoltaic in prospective to conservation, efficiency, solar thermal technology and site-specific applicability. So often resources are squandered by using photovoltaics when a greater financial, climate change reducing and physically smaller technology would have yielded much more of a return. I know all of the people reading this know it however it is our responsibility to make sure the end users know the relative impact to the desired results photovoltaic technologies will have relative to other technologies and practices. If a client was capital constrained and only had $1M to spend and wanted the greatest impact to the environment, highest return on their investment and reliable and lasting results what would we recommend they do first. We need to keep that thought as we move forward and be sure in these times we do not miss opportunities that are best first steps – most of the newly "green" will miss them if we don't point them out.
4.0	•This project is focused on reducing regulatory barriers and costs, and increasing public acceptance. • The workforce development project element is likely to become even more important given the increased federal emphasis on clean energy and jobs creation. Thus, IREC should work to broaden their reach.

4.0	While it is difficult to assess some areas, the impact of Interconnection and Net Metering are very clear. IREC's work here is extremely important in terms of truly transforming the market. For example, if the US market had nothing else but - standardized interconnection - standardized net metering - complete price transparency - favorable tariff structures these would likely suffice to make the entire market completely self sustaining over time. IREC is directly working on two of these three structures, so the potential impact of this work is very high.

Overall (Average Rating 4.0)

Rating	Comments
4.0	- Start to develop the capability to evolve the training support for different technologies. When do the WFD programs become self sustaining? - At what point will they need to transition the net metering work to address other interconnection issues? Should the team start to look at smart-grid questions and the value of the PV system from the perspective of the utility?
none	[none]
4.0	• Much of the PV industry looks to IREC for "best practices" on regulatory policies such as interconnection and net metering. • IREC does an excellent job of disseminating results through its Website and listserves as well as phone seminars.
4.0	Overall, IREC is to be commended for delivering outstanding work. I believe the IREC work may be the most important that I've seen amongst the market transformation work groups.