

Solar America Initiative

Fact Sheet

October 2007

About the Initiative

Goals

The Solar Decathlon serves as a cornerstone to President Bush's Solar America Initiative (SAI). Launched early in 2006, the SAI aims to make solar energy and related technologies cost-competitive with conventional forms of electricity by 2015. DOE is working to accomplish this goal through work at our national laboratories and public-private partnerships with industry, universities, state municipalities, and nongovernmental organizations. When federal solar energy research began in the 1970s, the cost of electricity from solar resources was about \$2.00 per kilowatt-hour (kWh). Technological advances during the last two decades have reduced solar electricity costs by more than 90 percent to about 20¢ per kWh, opening up new markets for solar energy.

Benefits to the Nation

When SAI reaches its full potential in 2015, photovoltaic (PV) technologies could:

- Provide at least 5 gigawatts of electric capacity (equivalent to the amount of electricity needed to power 1.25 million homes)

- Avoid 7 million metric tons per year of CO₂ emissions
- Employ 10,000 new workers.

The SAI benefits the U.S. economy even sooner than 2015—with partner companies achieving as much as a tenfold increase in production at 30% lower costs by 2010. Through these results, SAI will enhance U.S. energy security and improve the environment by:

- Diversifying electricity sources
- Displacing the costs of new electricity transmission infrastructure
- Utilizing safe and abundant U.S. solar resources
- Providing a clean source of electricity.

Research and Development Strategy

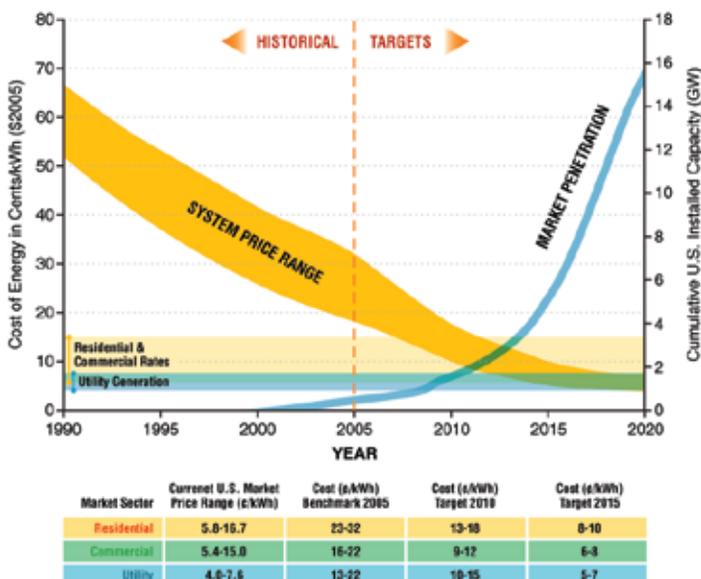
DOE successes in fundamental research on PV cells now enable the Department to evolve its solar R&D strategy to focus on improving fully integrated systems. Through the R&D activities of the SAI, the DOE intends to fund industry teams to reduce cost and scale up production across the PV value chain, delivering lower cost systems to consumers.

Market Transformation Strategy

In addition to SAI R&D efforts, DOE will conduct complementary activities in the area of market transformation to lower market barriers and capitalize on large-scale solar deployment opportunities. Areas of market transformation work include: solar codes & standards, solar rating systems, education and training for installers, system financing options, and strategic stakeholder partnerships. DOE will work with states, cities, non-profits, utilities, labor unions, and industry to address these commercialization barriers and to educate solar stakeholders.

Capturing Economic Opportunity

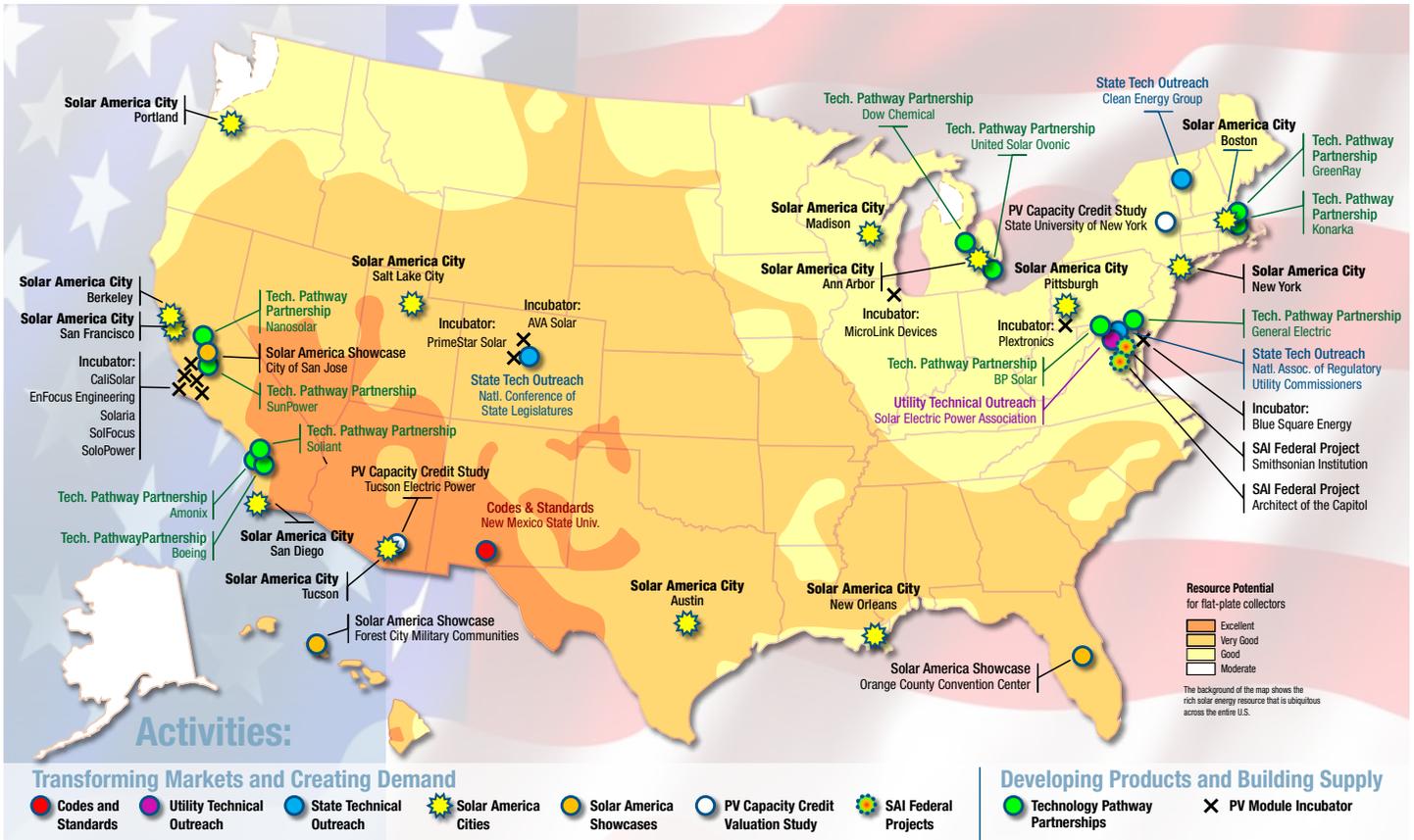
As the cost of solar electricity has decreased over the last decade, solar has become one of the world's fastest growing high-tech industries. The SAI will help U.S. companies leapfrog international competition and regain dominance in this growing global marketplace.



U.S. Department of Energy
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Bringing you a prosperous future where energy is clean, abundant, reliable, and affordable

SAI Across America



Resources

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy: www.eere.energy.gov/

Solar America Initiative: www.eere.energy.gov/solar/solar_america

EERE Solar Program: www.eere.energy.gov/solar/photovoltaics.html

Database of State & Local Incentives for Renewable Energy: www.DSIREUSA.org

EERE State Activities & Partnerships: www.eere.energy.gov/states

NREL Solar Energy Basics: www.nrel.gov/learning/re_solar.html

American Solar Energy Society (ASES): www.ases.org

Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC): www.irecusa.org/

U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC): www.usgbc.org

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A Strong Energy Portfolio for a Strong America. Energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy will mean a stronger economy, a cleaner environment, and greater energy independence for America. Working with a wide array of state, community, industry, and university partners, the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy invests in a diverse portfolio of energy technologies.

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For more information about the Solar America Initiative visit www.eere.energy.gov/solar/solar_america