# Solar America Initiative

Fact Sheet June 2007

# About the Initiative

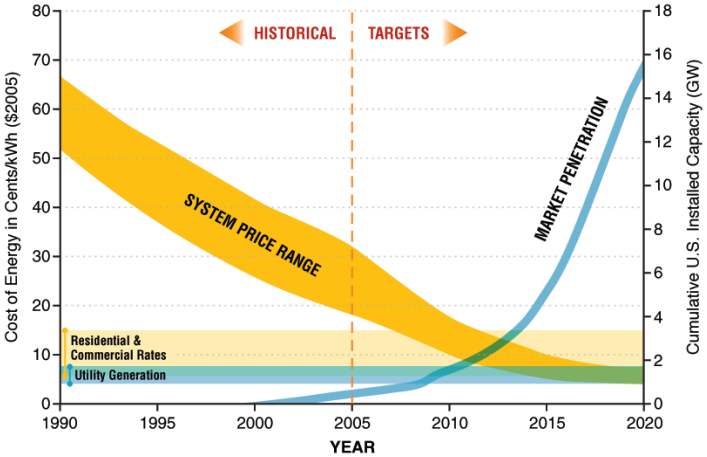
## Goals

The goal of President Bush's Solar America Initiative (SAI) is to achieve cost-competitiveness for solar technologies across all market sectors by 2015. DOE is working to accomplish this goal through public-private partnerships with industry, universities, national laboratories, state municipalities, and/or nongovernmental organizations. When federal solar energy research began in the 1970s, in response to rising oil prices, 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, 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 $CO_2$ emissions
- Employ 10,000 new workers.




| Market Sector | Current U.S. Market Price Range (¢/kWh) | Cost (¢/kWh) Benchmark 2005 | Cost (¢/kWh) Target 2010 | Cost (¢/kWh) Target 2015 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Residential | 5.8-16.7 | 23-32 | 13-18 | 8-10 |
| Commercial | 5.4-15.0 | 16-22 | 9-12 | 6-8 |
| Utility | 4.0-7.6 | 13-22 | 10-15 | 5-7 |

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

Past program successes in fundamental research on PV cells now enable DOE to evolve its solar R&D strategy to focus on improving fully integrated systems. Through the R&D activities of the SAI, 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 electricity from solar has decreased in 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 maintain leadership in this growing global marketplace.


U.S. Department of Energy
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
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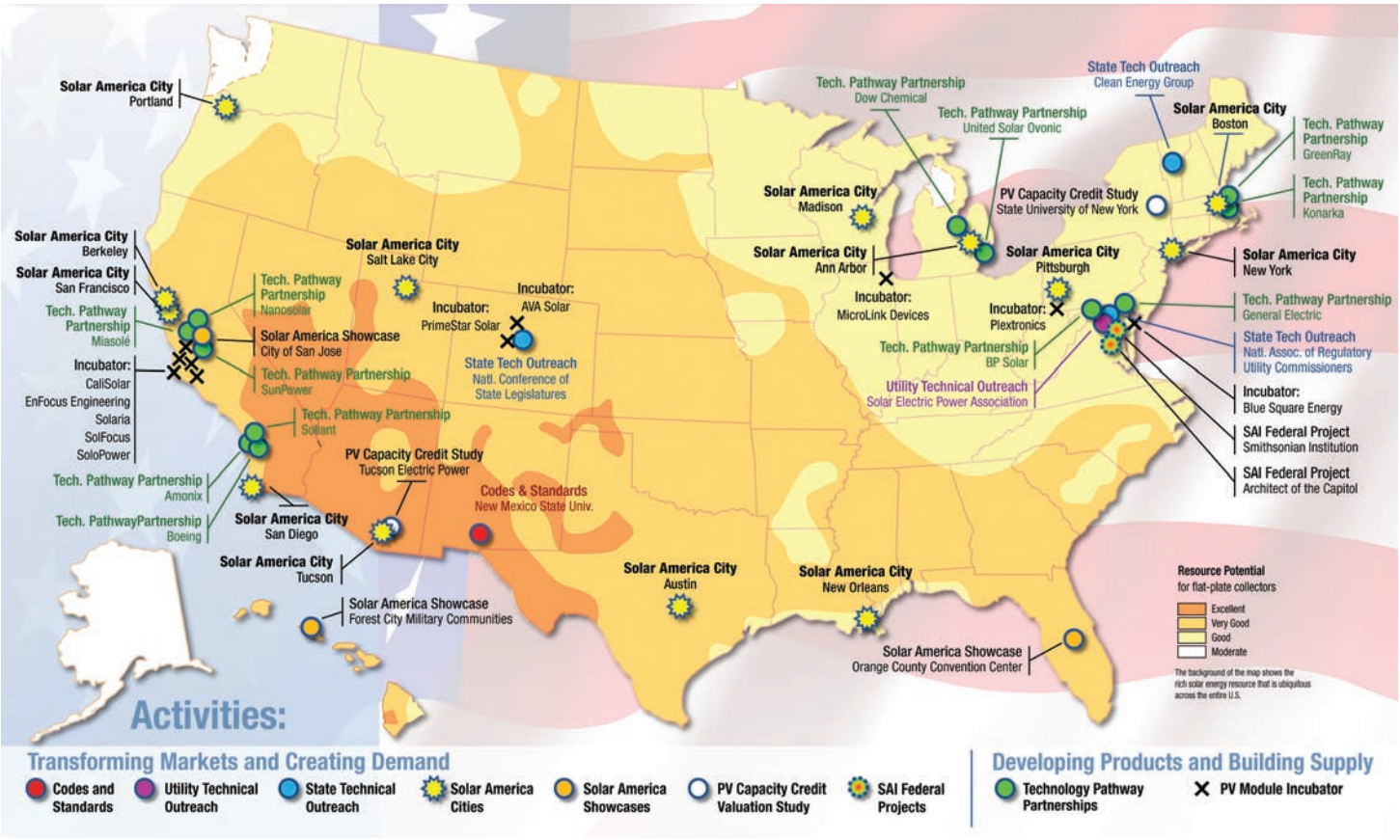
# SAI Across America




## 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

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

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

For more information contact:
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1-877-EERE-INF (1-877-337-3463)
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Prepared by the
National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)
NREL is a U.S. Department of Energy National Laboratory
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DOE/GO-102007-2444 • June 2007


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***