



Solar Schoolhouse Forum

March 26th, 2010
Sonoma County, CA

Solar Schoolhouse Forum: Powering Schools with Sunlight

School districts throughout the state are gearing up to implement large-scale solar projects. Converting sunlight into electricity onsite has become an attractive investment for schools looking to reduce utility costs. This Forum will provide the information and tools for these schools to have a successful experience going forward. We'll review and highlight successful solar school projects, and provide tips for what to include in RFPs and contracts. The pros and cons of various financing models will be discussed. We'll also explore the huge opportunity to leverage these solar electric systems as teaching tools and how best to engage the teaching community at each school.

Who should attend? School boards, administrators and finance officers, facilities personnel, curriculum specialists, teaching staff.

Date: Friday, March 26, 2010,
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Networking reception from
4:00 -5:30 pm sponsored by:



Location: Sonoma Mountain Village, Rohnert Park, CA
Cost: \$55 for breakfast, lunch and reception *and a copy of Solar Schoolhouse publication "Teaching Solar"*
Register online at www.solarschoolhouse.org
Registration deadline is March 15th

Travel Information – Sonoma County is a great place to visit – make a weekend of it! <http://www.sonomacounty.com/>

Air: nearest Airports are Santa Rosa (STS), Oakland (OAK), and San Francisco (SFO)

Santa Rosa has direct flights to/from LAX via Horizon Air.
Oakland has frequent flights (Southwest Air) throughout CA.

By Car:

1400 Valley House Drive, Rohnert Park, CA
(Take East Cotati Avenue to Camino Collegio and look for the SMV entrance on the right. Follow signs to the Event Center)

Lodging: Rohnert Park -

[Doubletree Inn](#)

[Best Western Inn](#)

Others: try Priceline.com for specials.



"This could be one of the most valuable teaching tools we have in our schools. We need sustainability in our schools, not just on our roofs or in our recycling programs, but in our classrooms too. That is why as good as this solar energy program will be, what we will be doing to use solar energy to teach our kids about math, science, business, finance and art will be even more important."

~Irvine Unified board member Michael Parham



www.solarschoolhouse.org

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A Statewide Forum for Schools Friday, March 26, 2010 in Sonoma County



The all-day Solar Schoolhouse Forum will be held at the Sonoma Mountain Village event center in Rohnert Park from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. School facilities personnel, school boards, finance and business officials and administrators from around California are encouraged to attend.

A \$55 fee will include a continental breakfast, lunch and a networking reception at the end of the day. **Advance registration is required by March 15.** To register, go to <http://solarschoolhouse.org/> and look for the registration link for the March 26 forum.

Topics and speakers will include:

- **Opening remarks:** Geof Syphers, Chief Sustainability Officer at SMV, Tor Allen of the Rachus Institute, Lisa Shell of PG&E
- **Developing your solar team:** Best models for writing RFPs for solar installations. What to ask for in terms of experience, warranties, monitoring, reporting, service, teacher training: Aaron Jobson, AIA from QKA Architects, Sophie Akins on RFP and legal support, Clyde Murley, technical advisor, Tom Kelly, KyotoUSA
- **Structural options for installing solar:** Elements of the Grid Neutral Initiative will be presented along with tips and strategies for streamlining the permitting process for solar projects. Various models for installing panels – roofs vs. carports: A representative from the CA State Architect, Jennifer Bruneman, facilities manager, Santa Rosa School District, Adam Lerner, Bass Electric
- **Financing solar for schools:** Pros and cons of CREBs vs. PPAs and what other financing mechanisms are available: Neal Skiver from Bank of America, Craig Hill from Northcross, Hill & Ach
- **Curriculum opportunities and teacher training for solar in schools:** Tor Allen of The Rachus Institute and Karalee Brown from PG&E's Solar Schools
- **Presentations from existing Solar Schools.** Tips for the next generation of projects. Sharing lessons that will make your project a success. Successful models of schools leveraging solar installations as part of larger effort to integrate solar lessons in the classroom and train for green jobs.

Contact: Marty Roberts – 707-829-9191, marty@solarschoolhouse.net

Ask about what to do while you are in Sonoma County!

Russian River, Ocean Bluffs, Art, Great Food, Wine Tasting!