

Why Certification Is Important: A State's Perspective

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4 Main Goals

- Promote renewable energy
- Provide value to practitioners
- Promote worker safety and skill
- Promote consumer confidence

What's driving this effort?

- 15 states with System Benefits Charge Funds (i.e., California, New York, Pennsylvania, Washington State, Arizona, etc.)
- Other states with incentives, interest and policies
- Market developments

2 Examples

- New York

State with SBC and strong commitment to solar certification and accreditation

- Texas

State with NO SBC, but taking a practical approach

NYSERDA's PV Practitioner Initiative: PON 689-02

\$ 1 Million in funding available for:

- National certification of instructors
- National certification of master trainers
- National accreditation of training institutions
- National accreditation of continuing education programs

NYSERDA Funding For

- Equipment and facilities
- Application and audit fees
- Record keeping systems
- Job placement
- Instructor training
- Market assessments to gauge interest
- Marketing of accredited programs to potential students
- Coordination of programs

NYSERDA Funding Levels

\$225K maximum funding/proposal for:

- \$10K for certified instructors
- \$15K for certified master trainers
- \$50K for training facilities and equipment
- \$5K for resource library
- \$20K for program marketing and outreach
- \$15K for market assessment
- \$50K for scholarships
- \$35K for apprenticeship programs
- \$30K for other innovative and related initiatives

NYSERDA PV Incentives for Eligible Installers (PON 716)

\$2.5 million+ available:

- \$4/Watt for grid-connected systems eligible for net metering
- \$4.50/Watt for grid-connected systems eligible for net metering and installed on New York Energy Star labeled homes
- \$5/Watt for all grid-connected systems not eligible for net metering (with the incentive for systems capped at 70% of total installed costs for 10kW-15kW systems.
- Available through December '05
- 1st come, 1st served

How does Texas Match Up to New York?

- Texas doesn't have an SBC—yet
- Sophisticated renewable energy industry
- Committed interest in certification and accreditation initiatives
- Taking a practical approach—strong desire to be ready with qualified work force when SBC is in place

Texas Plan

- State Energy Office and Austin Energy joint venture (recently signed contract)
- Will designate and train 2 master trainers
- Austin Energy will become accredited
- Master trainers will train Austin Energy building inspectors
- Marketing of accredited program to potential students

Need more info?

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