

**Solar America Initiative  
Technology Acceptance Technical Exchange Meeting  
Washington, DC  
June 12, 2006**

**Infrastructure Development Breakout Group B: Training Installers and Code Officials;  
National Accreditation of Training Institutions**

**Facilitators: Bob Hassett and Gary Nakarado**

**General Comments and Possible Suggestions**

- The breakout group was small in terms of outside participants.
- The groups did not answer proposed questions as presented; however the group engaged in discussions regarding the area of certification and accreditation. No consensus findings resulted, however some agreement came on a variety of topics.
- The group largely agreed that there is a serious lack of public confidence for PV installers.
- Multiple pathways exist for the certification of installers, work must occur to unify. Internship program(s) may be helpful for the future of the installer community.
- Union coordination is needed to ensure “buy-in” of any certification program.
- It is important to legally classify who performs the installation, is it the electrician, is it the contractor, is it some other group of people (i.e. journeymen, roofers, etc.).
- Market expansion will rectify the issue that the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners encounters with requiring a certification applicant to not share an installation with other individuals.
- Jobs for solar installations must exist in order for certification to remain relevant.
- Tier-levels to certification may be needed across different market sectors. For example, simple residential installation versus complex utility-scale projects.
- The Department of Energy may want to consider tying the Solar America Initiative MW goals to installer/jobs goals.
- Department of Energy should continue to raise the profile of solar technologies to spur national interest.
- There is growing State interest in reciprocity for the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners and State certification programs.
- Baseline education needs to drive the marketplace.
- Coordination is integral for nationwide certification and accreditation programs.