

**Solar America Initiative
Technology Acceptance Technical Exchange Meeting
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Infrastructure Development Breakout Group A: Codes, Regulations, and Standards

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Where is the U.S. most deficient in supporting the development of standards and codes?

- Meeting local standards and codes is burdensome; also, standards and codes process fails to anticipate technological changes.
- We need wider awareness of existing codes: many municipalities and utilities are uninformed about existing standards and codes.
- Because the U.S. lacks a central coordinator who is driving development and awareness of standards and codes, we are falling behind other nations
- There is a lack of participation by industry.

What new standards and codes are needed?

- Federal guidelines to increase awareness of how solar systems are governed by existing building and electrical codes are needed.
- As a core activity, the federal government should operate an assistance center to facilitate compliance with existing codes, as it has done in the past.
- There should be an effort to create uniform national codes modeled on codes and standards that have proven successful at the state level.
- Federal guidelines for net metering and interconnection standards to facilitate the development of a uniform national standard are needed.

What changes are most critically needed if we are to meet SAI goals?

- A standardized model to assist with predictions of system performance is needed.
- We need to try out different approaches to standards and codes, looking at what has already been done at the state level, and then pick the ones that work best.
- The Department of Energy should be an information clearinghouse for those who need more information on how to come into compliance with existing codes.
- Make industry participation in standards discussions a mandatory component of cost-sharing contracts; people from the laboratories and industries are the most important knowledge base.
- Fund partnerships among states.

What level of funding is needed?

- There should be enough budget for half of a full-time laboratory person's time to coordinate the process and motivate industry participation, and to pay for 3 – 4 day meetings a year; if industry is convinced that the process will have a major impact on setting standards, they will want to be involved.
- The Request For Proposal needs to be simple.
- 10 – 15% of the Solar America Initiative budget, including efforts to improve education about standards.