

**Solar America Initiative
Technology Acceptance Technical Exchange Meeting
San Francisco, CA
June 23, 2006**

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

Facilitator: Bob Hassett

General Discussion, Comments, and Suggestions :

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 Department of Energy could promote the coordination of training.
- The Department of Energy could promote a “Best Practices” designation for installer training programs.
- Training programs should be accessible and feasible (50 – 100 hours rather than 1000s of hours).
- Federal assistance could be provided for the training of codes inspectors and officials.
- Training programs should offer multilingual classes.
- Warning labels for PV should include Spanish language warnings.
- The Department of Energy could establish a minimum standard for PV installers.
- A “Plug and Play” design reduces complexity and will help to ease the need for certified installers.
- The group largely agreed that it is in the best interests of the solar industry to produce safe, high-quality installations at the lowest costs.
- Certification of the system planner/designer might better serve the need for a growing industry.
- A tiered approach to installer certification could be in better accordance with tasks on a jobsite. Entry-level classes could focus upon safe, high-performance systems.
- The Department of Energy could make the public more aware of national standards.
- The Department of Energy could work with the leading states to transfer the “best practices” to other parts of the country.
- Installer certification should lead to a distinct trade.