



Fall 2009 Newsletter

In this issue:

- Solar Tour 2009 Recap
- What We've Been Up To
- Students Excel in Solar Competitions
- Upcoming Events
- New Job Opening with LSES
- Meet the New LSES Sponsors
- Tax Credits Topic for December Meeting
- Time to Renew Your Membership!

Record Breaking Year for 2009 Louisiana Solar Tour



Clockwise from bottom left: Dorothy Prowell shows off the solar panels on her roof in Baton Rouge. The 2009 official solar tour yard sign. Jim Miller draws a diagram explaining solar to visitors at his home in Baton Rouge.

Solar Tour Recap continued...The sky was bright and sunny in Baton Rouge this past October 3rd, perfect for showing off the benefits of solar panels. This year's Solar Tour was an amazing event. With over 17 locations across the state in Baton Rouge, False River, Madisonville, Lake Charles, New Orleans, Metairie, New Roads, Haughton, Slaughter, and Holden, it was a record breaking year for solar sites for the Louisiana tour. Over 115 visitors participated and ran the gamut from those about to install their own solar to those interested, but not looking to invest right now. There were some familiar faces from people that attend our monthly meetings, as well as people that just drove by and decided to pop in. The local media even sent a reporter from *The Advocate* to come out and take the tour. His resulting article can be read on the LSES webs site. Visitors of the tour got to see firsthand the use of net metering, pole mounted systems, grid-ties, and solar hot water heaters. This is the 9th year that the Louisiana Solar Tour has been in conjunction with the American Solar Energy Society Solar Tour. A special thanks to all our solar homeowners for opening your doors on Saturday. If you missed this one, stay up to date with LSES for our Spring Solar Tour in April 2010!



Left: Solar tour homeowner shows Jim Landry and his wife his pole mounted system in his backyard in Baton Rouge. Right: A crowd of visitors listen as a Madisonville homeowner explains how solar works for his home.

What We've Been Up To...

Solar 101 Workshop...On Saturday, September 26th LSES hosted a Solar 101 Workshop in Baton Rouge. We had 12 people attend this 3 hour workshop. The workshop covered calculating your power needs, solar system sizing and selection, tax credit overview, and Q & A with a NAPCEP certified solar installer. Here is a testimonial from one of our workshop attendees:

"I had been interested in starting a business in the solar energy field for the past 2 years, without luck. Due to the lack of information or too much information in the web that would assist me taking the first steps. The Solar 101 Workshop is for someone that really wants to make a career on the sustainable field. The LSES workshop will focus and direct you to understand the steps on this exciting venture. I highly recommend entrepreneurs related to the field to attend this workshop. It's a BLAST!! " – Andres Mujica Lynn Maloney



Left: Workshop instructor reviews the differences between types and brands of solar panels. Right: Workshop attendees learn how a sun exposure meter works.

Green Crawl... LSES was part of the first ever Baton Rouge Green Crawl on October 1st. This one night event was a public event for participants to travel all around Baton Rouge and learn about the different green businesses Baton Rouge has to offer. We had a great turnout with over 150 people stopping by to see LSES!



Mark your calendars for the next Baton Rouge Green Crawl – St. Patrick's Day / Spring of 2010!



Left: Representatives from Gulf South Solar, LSES, and The Recycling Foundation smile in front of a huge block pile of recycled materials The Recycling Foundation brought to display during the Green Crawl. Right: Bikers smile for the camera before they head to Chelsea's, the last stop of the night.

Tree Sale... On October 17th the LSES state coordinator represented LSES at the Baton Rouge Green Annual Tree Sale. On this beautifully sunny morning, many local residents came out to the Essen Lane tree sale location to check out the greenery. LSES was proud to help volunteer at this great event. If you are interested in learning more about Baton Rouge Green, visit www.batonrougegreen.com.

One Year Anniversary... Congratulations to our Alexandria members for celebrating a year of monthly meetings this December!

Students on all Levels Compete in Solar



Baton Rouge High teacher Peter Oelschlaeger poses in front of the solar car with 11th grader Ben Simpson, Team Captain and driver Joey Leblanc, and LSES director Jeff Shaw.

Baton Rouge High School...On the sidewalk in front of Whole Foods Market is not a likely place you'd think to see a car parked, but that's exactly what happened on Saturday, September 26th. Students from the Baton Rouge Magnet High School mechanical and technical student association took the day to show off their hand built solar car, and gain support for their continuing efforts to compete in solar car races. Team Captain and solar car driver, Joey Leblanc is very likely the next generation of solar industry experts. Still in high school, Joey, with other team

members, built their 250 pound car from scratch. After Honda donated a car seat, teacher sponsor Peter Oelschlaeger said "Hey we've got a seat, now we've got to build a car." The car supported 6 panels that were 195 watts each, and went about 25 to 30 mph.

Students built the car to compete with 15 other teams in the Winston Solar Car Challenge. The Baton Rouge High team came in 14th due to some last minute technical difficulties that only allowed them to race on the last day. The week leading up to the race, and as close as 24 hours before, break pedals were breaking, a controller exploded, and a sprinkler system got the motor wet. Despite the last minute challenges, the students were able to finish the races, and are already planning what's next. The plan is to build the next car designed for the college level with a more aero dynamic structure that drives 50 to 60 miles per hours. These ambitious students have their sites set on the World Solar Challenge in July of 2010.

University of Lafayette...Along with high school students competing in solar car competitions, the University of Lafayette architecture and engineering students of Team BeauSoleil competed and won first place in the U.S Department of Energy's Solar Car Decathlon held in September. These students traveled to D.C and competed in building an exemplary efficient solar powered home. The home features an 8 kW PV system consisting of 39 Sanyo 205 and 195 watt panels and Xantrex inverters. In addition, the BeauSoleil Home has a closed loop solar thermal system for its domestic hot water needs. The home utilizes passive ventilation through its dogtrot/transitional porch, strategically-placed operable windows and solar orientation. The team also stayed true to their southern roots with a hurricane resistant model and Cajun flair architecture.



Photo of home provided by Philip Gould.

Competing against 20 other teams, Team BeauSoleil received a score of 97 out of a possible 100 points based on efficiency, practicality, and attractiveness. This group of students was the only

group of students from Louisiana to ever compete in this competition, and was proud to showcase energy-efficient building practices in the state of Louisiana. These young students creative and positive works both from Baton Rouge High School and the University of Lafayette shows a bright future for solar in our state.

Upcoming Events

Training Classes...GSS is offering several training classes in December on the following: Solar Water Heater Installation (Thermal 101), Advanced PV Case Studies (PV301), and Advanced Outback Power Systems Inverter Training (INV301). To visit the Gulf South Solar web site and learn more about these classes, click [here](#).

Register:

Call: 225-932-0035

Email: training@gulfsouthsolar.com

Location:

Gulf South Solar

4836 Revere Avenue, Suite F

Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Save the Date!

Come check out our solar booth set up at the Highland Road Park Observatory for International Astronomy Day Saturday, April 24th 2010.

Keep Saturday, April 17th 2010 open so you can come out to our Spring Solar Tour!

LSES Job Opening

LSES is in need of a new state coordinator to start January 2010. This part-time paid position with flexible hours is best suited for someone located in Baton Rouge. Responsibilities include maintaining the website, planning monthly meetings, workshops, and booths at other events, responding to emails, hosting Solar Tours in April and October, and publishing a quarterly newsletter.

If you are interested in this position (or know someone that could) please email jeff@lSES.org ASAP.

New LSES Sponsors

We would like you to meet our recent sponsors! Like our members, sponsors help keep LSES running so we can educate and promote solar energy statewide. Links to our sponsors' company web sites are also posted on the LSES web site under LA Solar Pros.

LA Solar Pro sponsorships are only for solar installers and distributors in the state, and require a \$200 annual membership fee. They must be licensed in the state of Louisiana with a specialty in solar energy equipment, listed with the Louisiana Secretary of State Commercial Division as a business, and proof that they have completed solar training through a nationally recognized solar

training organization or community college.



www.sundancesolarsystemsllc.com



www.solarcentric.com

Not a LA Solar Pro yet but still in the solar industry? Professional sponsorship is for solar companies that are in the solar industry, but are involved in other aspects of the industry besides installation. Professional sponsorship is also for solar installation companies that are in the process of meeting all of the LA Solar Pro requirements. Membership costs \$100 annually.

December 7th Meeting in Baton Rouge on Tax Credits

The Great Wall
Chinese Restaurant



Our December meeting will be Monday, December 7th. Our topic of discussion for December is all about tax credits, and will cover everything you need to know about

the solar tax credits before the beginning of 2010. LSES monthly meetings in Baton Rouge are held at the Great Wall Restaurant on the first Monday of every month. These meetings are held for LSES members and non members alike that want to come out and talk solar.

The Great Wall is located on College Dr. right off I-10 at the College Dr. exit (head south about a mile). Come enjoy the dinner buffet at 6:30pm and the meeting will be from 7-8pm. The meeting is free, but if you decide to eat, the buffet with drink, tax, and tip is \$12.39.

We also host monthly meetings in Alexandria at the Alexandria Library Offices on the third Wednesday of every month. The Alexandria Library Offices are located at 430 St. James Street and the meetings will be from 6-7pm.

Are you a member yet??? Do you need to renew your membership???

Please consider joining us today so we can continue to promote solar in our state. Membership donations are the only source of funding for LSES, and we need your continued support! You can be part of the ever growing Louisiana Solar Energy Society. You will receive inside information on solar activities and updates in our state. If you are new or need to renew your membership for 2010 please check out our membership options below.

We have several different types of annual membership packages to meet your financial situation.

Student: Available to any student currently enrolled in an educational institution. \$15

Basic: Available to all residents. \$25

Household: Available to at least two individuals at the same address. \$37

Professional Sponsors: Available to any individual or company registered in Louisiana. Logo and link added to LSES web site. \$100

LA Solar Pro: Available to all solar companies in Louisiana who meet the requirements on our web site. Logo and link added to LSES web site. Company can use our LA Solar Pro logo on their web site. \$200.

Easy online payments! Visit www.lses.org to learn more or pay online, or send checks to LSES: 5261 Highland Rd. #217, Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Newsletter published by Rebecca Lunceford with LSES
