



Fall 2007 Newsletter

2007 Louisiana Solar Tour: Best Year Yet!

Saturday, October, 6, 2007 seemed to be promising rain and the Tiger fans were blocking roads in all directions to get to Tiger Stadium. However, the heavy clouds gave way for cooler weather and traffic didn't seem to deter people from visiting the solar homes in Baton Rouge. The number of solar fans that turned out for the Louisiana Solar Tour of Homes left me in shock. There were some familiar faces of those who had attended the Solar Workshop the previous weekend and many new faces. The Shaw Home alone had about 110 guests. Many of you were interested in the energy saving appliances in the Shaw how as well as the solar system. (This is the link to the ConServe refrigerator at the Shaw home -

<http://www.conservrefrigerators.com/conserv.html>)

Also at the Shaw home was a representative from Gulf South Solar, Justin Runnels. He explained pricing and the installation process to many who were planning to purchase systems at the beginning of the year. In addition, Baton Rouge had two homes with solar pool heaters on the tour, include Peggy Vidrine's home. She reported about 30 visitors through of the day. Mr. Lee, in Meterie, reported 8 families visiting his home.



Jeff Shaw explains the Solar pathfinder
Photo by Kristin Menson



Justin Runnels
Photo by Kristin Menson

In his email, Lee said "Everyone was very interested to see how my system works." West of Baton Rouge, in Opelousas, Tony Adrian had about 27 visitors to his off grid home. He said he usually gets about 2-5 people at his home for the solar tour and this year he was amazed by the turn out. The tour is only going to get bigger with the Solar Tax Credit going into effect at the beginning of January. When you add solar to your home, let LSES know so your home can be added to the 2008 Solar Tour of Homes. A special thanks goes out to all the solar home owners who opened their doors on Saturday.

Solar Workshop Recap – September 29, 2007



Sarah Harris, LSES intern
Photo by Jeff Shaw

Sarah Harris, Justin Runnels, Wade Byrd, and Jeff Shaw spoke to a group of about 55 solar enthusiasts from all over the state. The workshop held in Baton Rouge, lasted from 1-5pm on Saturday, September 29th. Harris gave an introduction to LSES, including how it was founded and how LSES has been involved in the net metering act and solar tax credit. Runnels, from Gulf South Solar, showed pictures from recent installs by the company and answered questions concerning pricing for home systems. Wade Byrd's presentation, entitled "10 Really Silly Things to do When You Build a Home in Louisiana" gave ideas to make your home more energy efficient, comfortable (no drafts or hot and cold spots),

improve indoor air quality, quiet, long lasting, and better for the environment. Lastly, the LSES Director, Jeff Shaw discussed benefits of solar and answered questions from many of the guests. Afterwards, the attendees got "hands on" and learned how to use a solar pathfinder, saw the energy efficiency demo from Wade, and even got to see a few of Louisiana's finest snakes at the Bluebonnet Nature Center.

The Bluebonnet Nature Center was great place for our first solar workshop. Thanks to all the employees who stayed late and helped us out.



LSES Solar Workshop Fall 2007
Photo by Sarah Harris

Historic Home Meets Modern Day Technology

One of Louisiana's historic plantations will be the first in the state to be equipped with solar. Glencoe Plantation in Jackson, Louisiana, is owned by Leah and Chuck Morris. The couple is currently using solar to power their barn and is in the process of powering their pool pump and well pump with solar as well. A 2-kilowatt grid tied system is being installed by Gulf South Solar. The system is backed up by batteries so if the power goes out, the home will still have water. Since the system is grid tied, it will feed back on to the meter.

Glencoe is listed on the Historic Register and is said to be on the finest examples of Queen Anne architecture. The home was built in 1870; however, it completely burned down and was rebuilt exactly as the original in 1903.



Installation team in front of 2kW system
Photo by Jeff Shaw

LSES Members Featured on LPB

October 5, 2007, three LSES members were featured in LPB's program, *Louisiana: The State We're In*. In preparing for the solar tour, LBP went on the road to interview some of Louisiana's homes and businesses that were featured on the Solar Tour of Homes. Sandy and Denise Petit, Jeff Shaw, and the Green Project were interviewed in the 15-minute featured story on the show. If you missed it, check it out on the web!
[mms://wm.lpb.org/swi/20071005solar.wmv](https://www.lpb.org/swi/20071005solar.wmv)



Home Built Solar Water Heater in Erath, LA

Mark Mergist is enjoying free hot water from his home built solar water heater. Using double paned French door glass, ½ inch copper pipe, corrugated galvanized roofing, 2x4 framing, 5/8 plywood backing, and ½ foam insulation Mergist constructed a collector. He used a 3.4 GPM DC motor to pump the water through the collector. A 10 watt PV module powers the temperature controller. Mergist is producing 135 degree water in a 30 gallon tank! If you are a handy man (or woman) and you have some free time this weekend, here's a project worth attempting.



Mark Mergist's home built collector
Photo by

Solar Tax Credit Emergency Rules Released

On October 1st, the emergency rules for the solar tax credit were released. I encourage your to read the actual legislation, however, here are the main points it addresses.

The system must be:

- purchased as a package. (not separate components)
- installed up to code.
- UL listed.

You can purchase more than one system and still receive 50% back on each one. If you want to install the system yourself, you can, however you cannot receive tax credit for the installation. All installations must be performed by a **Louisiana lisenced contractor** or **certified solar installer** to claim the cost of the installation.

This is just a summary. Click the link below for the full description of the emergency rules.

http://www.rev.state.la.us/forms/lawspolicies/LAC61_I_1907.pdf

Email info@lses.org with any solar stories that would be appropriate for the newsletter. We love to hear from you!

JOIN LSES

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FOR ONLY \$15 A YEAR YOU CAN BE A PART OF THE EVER GROWING LOUISIANA SOLAR ENERGY SOCIETY. YOU WILL RECEIVE NEWSLETTERS AND INSIDE INFORMATION ON SOLAR ACTIVITIES IN OUR STATE. DUES ARE EASIER TO PAY NOW THROUGH PAYPAL.

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ASES HAS INSTITUTED DUAL INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP TRACKS KEEPING IN TACT THE CORE MEMBERSHIP GROUP OF PROFESSIONALS, SCIENTISTS AND ACADEMICS (PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP, \$89), AND ADDING A LEVEL SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR THE END USER AND ADVOCATE (BASIC MEMBERSHIP, \$39).

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