



FALL 2008 Newsletter

National Solar Tour of Homes 2008-Coming October 4 to Louisiana

The National Solar Tour of Homes this year will be held in **2 weeks** on Saturday, October 4, 2008. This is the 13th year ASES, American Solar Energy Society has held the event, and the eighth year LSES has been the Louisiana host. The tour times vary among tour sites so check our website for each site.

Registration is required! To register, email us at info@lses.org. We need your name, number, and which sites you want to tour.

The National Tour of Solar Homes is held every October throughout the United States. In over 100 communities in 42 states, solar homeowners open their doors to visitors to demonstrate the renewable energy and conservation features of their homes. The tour highlights solar energy technologies that are working right now, in real places for real people.

www.ases.org www.lses.org



LSES Monthly Meeting-Baton Rouge (Next Meeting: Sept. 29th!)

The Great Wall

Chinese Restaurant



LSES monthly meetings are held at The Great Wall restaurant on the first Monday of every month. Due to Hurricane Gustav September's meeting had to be rescheduled from September 8th to the 29th. The topic for the next meeting will be "Using solar for hurricane power." We expect a larger group this time so please email us if you plan on attending.

Considered to be the best Chinese food in BR, 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. Come discuss the latest solar issues we face like the tax credits. Dinner with drink, tax, and tip is \$12.39.

Science Classroom Goes Solar-Lake Charles

By Sam Breaux

The idea of making an environmentally friendly, "net zero" classroom was initiated by Thomas Breaux, a student at St. Margaret Catholic School in Lake Charles. He started this project because he needed to do a project benefiting the community to get his Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America. We were brain



Mrs. Reeves in her classroom

We contacted him a few times and it sounded like it would be a long wait and no definite answer. So we started to be more active. We did not want the cost to be out of our reach, so we looked to reduce the power in the classroom and go for about a

1kw system. We monitored the power consumed in the classroom with some Kill-A-Watt meters on all the outlets; we took measurements once a week and met with Mrs. Reeves to talk about the project. We worked on becoming more energy efficient with by changing all the appliances in the classroom to Energy Star Products. We contacted 3 different solar installers in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Shreveport to get an estimate of the cost for an install, each one was about the same (Around \$10,000.00.) Jeff Shaw with Gulf South Solar was the most helpful, had the most experience, and was the nearest to Lake Charles. So now we had to raise the money. We looked at grants but it looked intimidating to us. It looked like you had to take a course or be a professional grant writer. So we decided to first write letters to local companies and foundations. We wrote about 100 letters and applied online to others. Most letters were to local and state foundations and companies. We received most of the donations from Foundations. We also received money from Entergy from an Environmental Grant. We had one foundation that said they would match the money we raised up to \$5,000.00. The St. Margaret Science Club won some money from the Lexus Environmental Challenge and donated some of that money to the project. We got an approval from the school board to install the equipment and we contacted a local electrician to help us with permits and electrical connections. We then finally had the money raised. We ordered the equipment and organized scouts and students to help with the install. It was great working with Gulf South Solar on the project. They were very helpful and made it very educational.

We could not have done it without the help from Mrs. Reeves. She gave us plenty of guidance, suggestions, material, and helped us every step of the way.

She is the queen of fund raising and solar power in Southwest LA.

storming ideas and he mentioned that his 8th grade teacher, Mrs. Reeves, wanted to have her classroom solar powered. Thomas talked to Mrs. Reeves and she was glad to take on the project with him. We wanted to make it reliable and low maintenance, so after doing research and talking to experts we found that a grid-tie system would be the best solution. We wrote to many schools and asked how they did it. Many schools were part of an educational program from their electric company. We talked to Glen Kiser with the Foundation for Environmental Education. He said he was working with Entergy to start a solar program in Louisiana. He said there were schools going solar in New Orleans and he would try to get us included in the program. It sounded promising but we never heard back from him.



Students installing the modules

If you have more questions on this story please email us at info@lsec.org. St. Margaret Catholic School will be on the solar tour this year.

LSES Board Member's home featured on LPB

Tony Adrian, board member of LSES was featured on LPB's program *Louisiana: The State We're In*. They interviewed him and the architect of his home, Edward Cazayoux on how they designed his home which is made out of recycled materials. Tony has stayed on the eco-friendly path by using a rainwater-harvesting system to collect water for his home and by installing solar modules to run his home's electricity. Tony will be the solar tour this year. If you missed the interview check it out online!

[mms://wm.lpb.org/swi/LSWI3150green.wmv](https://wm.lpb.org/swi/LSWI3150green.wmv)



Tony Adrian's home

Federal Tax Credit could be extended for another eight years



SEIA, Solar Industries Energy Association, reported September 9 that Congress came back after their summer recess with a heavy focus on energy. Extending the Federal Tax Credit for another eight years is just one of the many bills under discussion in the house. SEIA is working hard with the Senator's staff to make this extension happen.

To read more about this and other solar news around the country check it out here [..Solar Energy Industries Association.pdf](#)

Wilhite Solar Solutions at Everything Green Expo-Shreveport



By Marion Marks

The Everything Green Expo, an event held to promote educational as well as vendor programs on recycling and conservation of resources was held in Shreveport on August 22-24, 2008. **Wilhite Solar Solutions**, a Louisiana solar company, was a Prime Vendor and one of four solar providers participating in our first expo in Shreveport. In short, the Expo was a success for the public and the participants. Over 6,000 visitors toured the exhibits, in spite of horrible weather conditions during two of the days of the event. 109 vendor spaces had participants from around the state and numerous other parts of the country exhibiting energy saving building technologies and other Green concepts. The reverse side of the booth was a suspended section of solar modules which all that entered the expo immediately saw. We partnered with the Shreveport Chapter of the US Green Building Council, and anticipate having more expos around the state and again in Shreveport next year.

You can check out the expo and see all other vendors that were there by going to their website www.everythinggreenexpo.com. For more information on Wilhite Solar Solution you can go to their website www.wilhitesolarsolutions.com.

Make It Right Foundation picked New Orleans solar company to do the first solar installs on the Lower 9th Ward homes

The Make It Right Initiative, founded by Brad Pitt, picked **South Coast Solar**, a New Orleans based solar installation company to install solar on the first six homes being built in the Lower 9th Ward. The Make It Right Foundation was initiated after



SOUTH COAST SOLAR
Dependable Renewable Energy

Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and especially the Lower 9th Ward.

Brad Pitt's vision for MIR is to rebuild the Lower 9th Ward by building environmentally friendly homes that are also affordable for the homeowners. The first step in doing this is to make sure the homes are equipped with solar modules for improving the environment, as well as helping the homeowners lower their utilities bills. To see more about Brad Pitt's MIR or to donate go to www.makeitrightnola.org. Also to learn more about South Coast Solar go to www.southcoastsolar.com.

Increased maximum size for commercial net metering-Louisiana

The state has recently increased the maximum size for commercial and agricultural net metering from 100kw to 300kw. Unlike residential homes that receive both the state tax credit and the federal tax credit, commercial businesses only have the federal tax credit, which expires December 31, 2008, to help pay for solar. This is a great incentive for commercial businesses that would like to increase the size of their system beyond 100kw. Other retailers like Wal-Mart, Macy's, and Kohl's are going solar and with the help of the new bill can add even more. To read this story in full click this link http://blog.nola.com/tpmoney/2008/08/the_state_has_increased_the_ma.html.

31kw PV system installed at The Island Country Club



The Island Country Club located in Plaquemine recently decided to go solar. They wanted to off set half of their energy use throughout the club. To get the job done they contacted **Gulf South Solar**, a Baton Rouge solar installation company. To reach their goal they decided to go with a grid tie system of 160 modules totaling 31kw, the largest system to date in Louisiana. The modules are situated on the south facing roof of the cart barn. Hurricane Gustav passed over Plaquemine with 122 mph winds gusting and there was no damage to the modules.

The Island will be on the solar tour this year so if you would like to visit it please let us know at info@lsec.org. To learn more about this installation and to read the full article go to www.theislandgolf.com/solar.html. To learn more about Gulf South Solar go to www.gulfsouthsolar.com.

Recent Professional Sponsors of LSES

Rebirth Capital LLC

We are happy to announce we have two new professional sponsors of LSES, Rebirth Capital in New Orleans and IDEA, LLC in Baton Rouge.

Rebirth Capital and its affiliates are located in New Orleans. Founded in 2005 they provide a range of services for start-up and high-growth companies with an emphasis on renewable energy capital, gulf coast recovery capital, alternative financing, and financial advisory services. They are dedicated to fostering economic growth and development in the Gulf Coast area and helping the area recover from the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina. You can learn more about this company on their website at www.rebirthcapital.com.

IDEA, LLC is a new solar installation company located in Baton Rouge. They are in the process of getting their business up and running. If you would like to contact them you can reach James Nelson at (225) 346-5973.

JOIN ASES

WWW.ASES.ORG

ASES IS THE U.S. SECTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ENERGY SOCIETY, HELPING TO CREATE A MORE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ECONOMY THROUGH INCREASING THE USE OF SOLAR ENERGY, ENERGY EFFICIENCY, AND OTHER SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGIES. MEMBERSHIP DONATIONS ARE \$89 FOR PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS AND \$39 FOR BASIC MEMBERS. PAY YOUR LSES MEMBERSHIP AT THE SAME TIME NOW!

JOIN LSES

WWW.LSES.ORG

YOU CAN BE PART OF THE EVER GROWING LOUISIANA SOLAR ENERGY SOCIETY. YOU WILL RECEIVE NEWSLETTERS AND INSIDE INFORMATION ON SOLAR ACTIVITIES IN OUR STATE.

COME SEE HOW DUES ARE EASIER TO PAY NOW AT

[HTTP://WWW.LSES.ORG/MEMBERSHIPFORM.HTML](http://WWW.LSES.ORG/MEMBERSHIPFORM.HTML)

JOIN ASE

WWW.ASE.ORG

IT'S FREE! AND YOU WILL RECEIVE PERIODIC UPDATES FROM THE ALLIANCE TO SAVE ENERGY.

*Louisiana Solar Energy Society
5261 Highland Rd. #217, Baton Rouge, LA 70808
e-mail: info@lses.org web: www.lses.org
Newsletter – [Cece Hyslop](#)*