Conference Agenda (draft)
Launching Solar Valley for Inland Southern California
The University of California, Riverside
Center for Sustainable Suburban Development
Center for Environmental Research and Technology
Southern California Research Initiative for Solar Energy
February 28th, 2019, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

This fifth annual conference is designed for city leaders, planners, council members, businesses, utility companies, and the general public. Panelists will present on the state of solar energy by discussing the latest technology, public policy, regulations, economics, and the associated environmental and sustainability benefits of renewable energy. Attendees will learn about the challenges and opportunities for incorporating solar energy and deploying microgrid systems in their communities, including new opportunities statewide like community solar, revenue opportunities, local policies, and initiatives already in place.

Bourns Technology Center
1200 Columbia Ave. Riverside, CA 92507

8:00 – 8:30 Registration and Breakfast

8:30 – 8:35 Introductory Remarks
Master of Ceremonies:
Ron Durbin, Executive Director, University of California Advanced Solar Technologies Institute (UC Solar), UC Merced
Welcoming Remarks:
Dr. Ronald Loveridge, Director, Center for Sustainable Suburban Development (CSSD), UC Riverside

8:35 – 9:35 Morning Keynote
Steven Strong, President, Solar Design Associates

9:35 – 10:05 Morning Presentation
Courtney Smith, Chief Deputy Director, California Energy Commission

10:05 – 10:20 Morning Break (Sponsor’s booths and Posters)

10:20 – 11:20 1st Panel Discussion - The State of Solar Energy
Description:
Panelists will discuss the state of the solar energy industry from a variety of perspectives, focusing on opportunities and how to effectively address the challenges facing this industry as it continues to rapidly grow and achieve higher levels of penetration in the energy generation market. The role that policy-making, economics, and technology have played in the success of solar energy will also be discussed.
Moderated by:
V. John White, Executive Director, Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies (CEERT)

Panelists:
Russell Garwacki, Director, Pricing, Design & Research, Southern California Edison (SCE)
Scott Murtishaw, Senior Advisor, California Solar + Storage Association (CALSSA)
Dara Yung, Sr. Manager, Permit & Inspections, Sunrun

11:20 – 12:20 2nd Panel Discussion – Solar Policy for Inland Southern California

Description:
Where is solar policy for inland Southern California now? Where is it going? What does the new category of “community solar” mean for our solar valley?

Moderated by:
Rick Bishop, Executive Director, Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG)

Panelists:
Todd Foley, Senior Vice President, Policy & Government Affairs, American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE)
Ed Smeloff, Director, Grid Integration, Vote Solar
A. Bambi Tran, Regional Director, GRID Alternatives

12:20 – 12:45 Solar Leadership Council Announcement

Description:
Announcing the Solar Valley Leadership Council, a nonprofit dedicated to increasing the use of solar in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties and attracting companies involved in the solar supply chain to inland Southern California.

Special Guest:
Dr. Ronald Loveridge, Director, CSSD, UC Riverside

12:45 – 2:00 Lunch (Sponsor’s Booths and Poster Session)

2:00 – 2:50 3rd Panel – 100% Renewables by 2050

Description:
Throughout the nation and particularly in California, cities, and counties are making commitments to reach the target of using 100% renewables before 2050. This panel will discuss public policy, programs, and action being taken by cities to meet this ambitious target.

Moderated by:
Diane Moss, Founding Director, Renewables 100 Policy Institute

Panelists:
Dr. Jose Etcheverry, Director, International Renewable Energy Academy (IREA), York University
Trevor Birtch, Mayor, City of Woodstock
George Minter, Regional Vice President, External Affairs and Environmental Strategy, Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas)

2:50 – 3:00 Afternoon Break

3:00 – 3:50 4th Panel – Microgrid and Energy Management

Description:
Microgrids are, in a sense, the future of the electrical grid. Able to isolate themselves from the grid, they can continue to provide power in the event of blackouts. Microgrids are comprised of multiple resources including renewables, energy storage, and sometimes fossil fuel backup. These microgrids have an important impact by stabilizing and making the grid more resilient, and in providing disaster relief facilities during disasters and subsequent recovery efforts.

Moderated by:
Dr. Alfredo Martinez-Morales, Managing Director, Southern California Research Initiative for Solar Energy (SC-RISE), UC Riverside

Panelists:
Steven Strong, President, Solar Design Associates
Dr. Manuel Avendano, Senior Manager, Emerging Technologies Evaluation, Southern California Edison (SCE) *(invited)*

3:50 – 4:00 **Closing Remarks**
Dr. Ronald Loveridge, Director, CSSD, UC Riverside
Dr. Alfredo Martinez-Morales, Managing Director, SC-RISE, UC Riverside
Fred Schwartz, Executive Director, International Renewable Energy Academy (IREA), York University

4:00 – 4:30 **CE-CERT Tour (Optional)**