

# Clean Energy States Alliance

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## **NREL's Solar Technical Assistance Team – How They Can Help You!**

**Hosted by  
Warren Leon, Director, CESA**

**October 10, 2013**



# Housekeeping

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- All participants will be in listen-only mode throughout the broadcast.
- We suggest that you connect to the audio portion of the webinar using VOIP and your computer's speakers or USB-type headset. You can also connect by telephone. If by phone, please expand the Audio section of the webinar console to select "Telephone" to see and enter the PIN number shown on there onto your telephone keypad.
- You can enter questions for today's event by typing them into the "Question Box" on the webinar console. We will pose your questions, as time allows, following the presentation.
- This webinar is being recorded and will be made available after the event on the CESA website at

[www.cleanenergystates.org/events/](http://www.cleanenergystates.org/events/)

# About CESA

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Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA) is a national nonprofit organization working to implement smart clean energy policies, programs, technology innovation, and financing tools, primarily at the state level. At our core is a national network of public agencies that are individually and collectively working to advance clean energy.

# State Technical Assistance Team

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## **Application for Solar Policy and Program Technical Assistance in 2014 - Round 5**

The Solar Technical Assistance Team (STAT) is a project of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) SunShot Initiative that is implemented in partnership with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL).

# Today's Guest Speakers

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- Erin Nobler, Project Leader, NREL
- Selya Price, Manager, Clean Energy Deployment, CEFIA

# Contact Info

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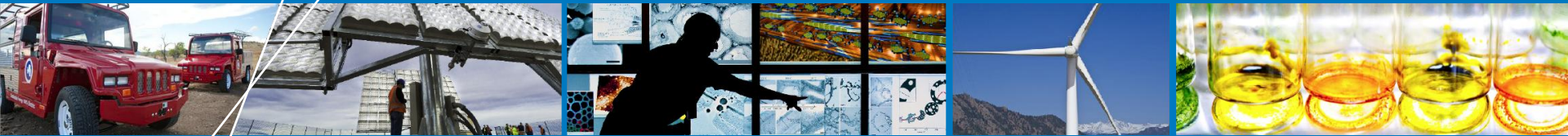
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# NREL Solar Technical Assistance



**Erin Nobler, NREL Project Leader**

**October 10, 2013**

# Overview

- **Types of TA Available**
- **Examples of Past TA Requests**
- **Program Metrics**
- **What makes a successful TA Request**
- **How To Apply**
- **Q&A**



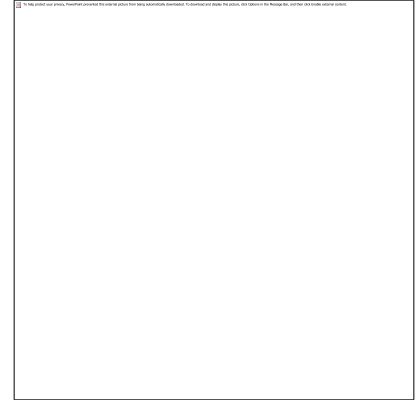
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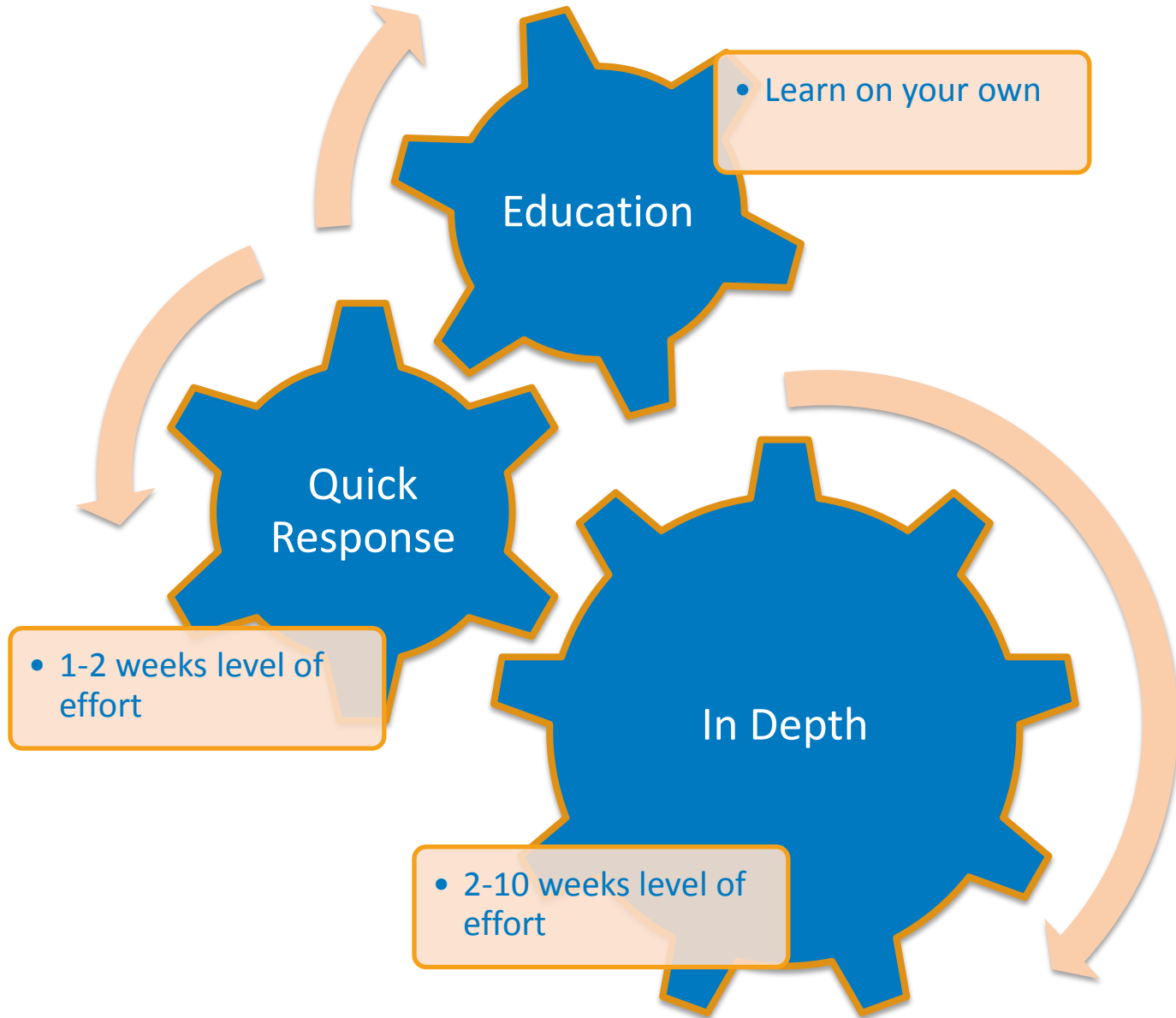
# What is STAT?

## Solar Technical Assistance Team (STAT)

- **U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Solar Program, in coordination with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)**
- **Objective:**
  - Provide current, credible information on solar policy, program, and regulatory choices to entities positioned to impact the policy environment through:
    - Basic solar education for new officials and staff
    - Partnerships to address specific challenges
    - Topical learning opportunities



# Types of TA Available



# Types of TA Available: Quick Response

## Program Structure

- Rolling application throughout the year
- Short online application
- Quick 2 day turnaround time on request approval
- Up to 80 hours per request

Applicants	Topic
City & County of Denver, Office of Economic Development	Solar contribution to NZE community, strategies
City of Camden, New Jersey	Solar on contaminated lands
City and County of Denver, Mayor's Office	Solar Benefits technical support
Montana Senate District 33	Solar Ready Design presentation
Delaware Public Service Commission	Technology – Inverter accuracy
County of Kauai, Hawaii	RFP Assistance
City of Chicago	Airport project technical support
Louisiana PSC	Net metering caps presentation
City of Tucson	Financing Options for PV
Ranson, WV	Policy Options



# Types of TA Available: Education

- **Webinar Series**
  - Solar 101
  - Solar Hot Topics
  - Tools You Can Use
- **Fact Sheets/Memos**
  - Policy Stacking
  - Permitting

**NTER** National Training & Education Resource

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## Solar Technical Assistance for Policymakers

These six modules were developed from Webcasts presented in 2012 to provide state and local policymakers with the best information on policies, regulations, solar technologies and resources, and financing mechanisms necessary to support increased adoption of Solar PV and reduce the cost of solar energy systems.

**Course Contents**

- Module 1: What a Successful Market Can Do
- Module 2: Solar Economics for Policymakers
- Module 3: Solar Technology Options and Resource Assessment
- Module 4: Policy for Distributed Solar 101, What Makes a Solar DG Market?
- Module 5: Policy Environments That Draw Manufacturers and Create Jobs
- Module 6: Regulatory Strategies for Driving the Distributed Solar Market

Estimated Duration: Unknown  
Last Modified: 8 months ago By NREL  
Average Rating: ★★★★★ (from 2 reviews)  
Categories:  
Keywords: [energy](#) [solar](#) [nrel](#) [market](#) [policymakers](#) [assistance](#) [economics](#) [technical](#) [technology](#) [options](#)

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### Course Reviews

5 Stars  
4 Stars  
3 Stars  
2 Stars  
1 Star

Average Rating: ★★★★★

Sign In to Review

**CHRISTOPHER PATE** ★★★★★  
November 27, 2012  
2 of 2 people found this review helpful

**Mohammad Masab** ★★★★★  
December 7, 2012  
0 of 2 people found this review helpful

This was a very educational course on every aspect of the PV industry. I would refer anyone getting into the business to review these videos. Thank you for the wonderful resource.

The information provided in the course is very helpful to understand the solar industry. Solar technology is not limited to only electricians or handymen who are improving their status as installer. This is a Light Engineering and future technology which suppose to be taken seriously as an important tool of living in this world. There are three ways of resources, Earth, sea and sky. now it is the time to welcome all natural resources the sky offers to this world.

Source: NTERlearning.org

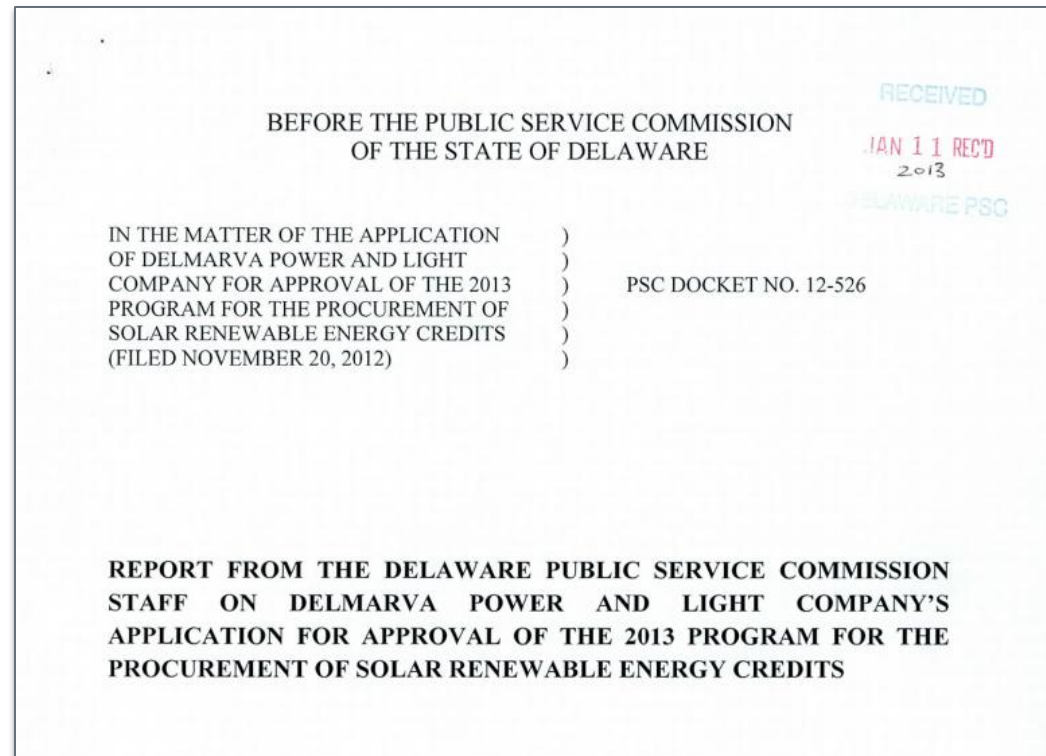
# Past STAT Requests

## Popular Topics

- Net metering/Interconnection
- Permitting
- Inter-jurisdictional control (“home rule”)
- Codes

# Example Requests

- DE PSC staff is formulating policy on whether inverters are accurate enough to fulfill our statutory requirement of “recorded by appropriate metering”. They are seeking NREL advice to determine how to move forward.
- State of Florida requests information on permitting options for solar



Delaware PSC docket No. 12-526

# What makes a good TA request?



To meet the basic eligibility criteria, applicants must qualify as:

- State elected official or staff
- State agency staff
- Local elected official or staff
- Local agency staff

In addition, applicants must perform work that is directly related to PV markets/costs.



Successful applicants will:

- Provide staff time to assist
- Articulate existing state barriers
- Articulate specifically how the requested assistance would remove or reduce the barrier
- Articulate how DOE assistance would help facilitate movement toward a robust solar market
- Be well positioned to make change



# What makes a good TA Request?

Public sector requests are evaluated on:

## Alignment with SunShot goals

- Affect solar technology costs
- Affect grid integration costs
- Accelerate solar deployment

## Market impact potential

## Area of lab expertise

## Results affect more than single project development

## Likelihood of action to be taken

## Appropriate DOE role

## Replicability



# What we need from you...

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## 1) Participation in requests

## 2) FEEDBACK!

- Satisfied: Is the requester satisfied with the response?
- Used: Was information used in/contribute to decision making process?
- Incorporated: Did stakeholders adopt, modify, or maintain solar programs?
- Enhanced Market: How did the solar market in the assisted jurisdiction change after receiving assistance?

# How To Apply – Quick Response



## Solar Program Quick Response Technical Assistance Request Form

Name:	Click here to enter text.
Phone:	Click here to enter text.
Email:	Click here to enter text.
Office Making Request:	Click here to enter text.
Deadline for Request:	Click here to enter text.
Request:	Click here to enter text.
Estimate of Hours Required to Complete Request:	Click here to enter text.
How will the resolution of this request affect solar technology costs in your area?	Click here to enter text.
How will the resolution of this request affect grid integrations costs in your area?	Click here to enter text.
How will the resolution of this request accelerate solar deployment in your area?	Click here to enter text.

Travel Requested? (Yes/No): Click here to enter text.


Invitation Letter from Public Official Attached? (Yes/No): Click here to enter text.

At any time during the year, send completed Quick Response Request Form to stat@nrel.gov

Apply online:  
[http://www.nrel.gov/ap/solar\\_tech\\_assistance/](http://www.nrel.gov/ap/solar_tech_assistance/)

# How to Apply – In Depth

- Application will open in mid October
- Apply online: [http://www.nrel.gov/ap/solar\\_tech\\_assistance/](http://www.nrel.gov/ap/solar_tech_assistance/)
- **Sign up for updates:**
- [http://www.nrel.gov/tech\\_deployment/stat.html](http://www.nrel.gov/tech_deployment/stat.html)

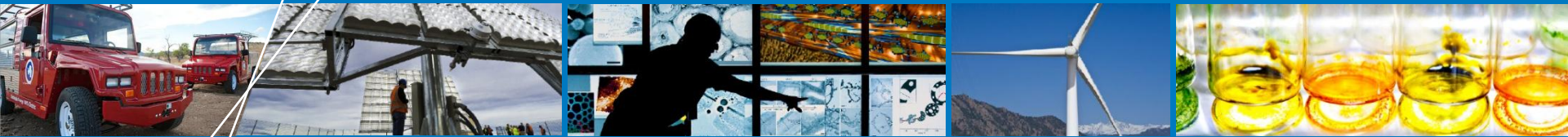
Download the [STAT fact sheet](#)  for more details.

### **Subscribe to Email Updates**

[Subscribe to the Solar Technical Assistance Team email list.](#)

### **Contact Us**

For more information on STAT, or for help with the quarterly application, contact [stat@nrel.gov](mailto:stat@nrel.gov).



**Thank You!**



Empowering you to make  
smart energy choices

October 10, 2013

# Connecticut's Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority

*Experience with NREL Solar Technical  
Assistance Team*

# CEFIA Experience with NREL Solar Technical Assistance Team

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- The application is short, easy to complete, in as little as 20 minutes
- **NREL's Solar Technical Assistance Team (STAT)** has contributed to progressing CEFIA's residential solar PV deployment efforts by providing valuable information and analysis in response to our technical assistance requests, as well as through STAT's support of DOE's solar market transformation initiatives and programs
- **NREL strengths**
  - Breadth and depth of staff with clean energy analysis skills
  - Large body of existing research, analysis and resources
  - Understanding of national, regional and state-level contexts (as well as international)
  - Partnership with DOE on SunShot Initiative and its programs such as the Rooftop Solar Challenge
  - Provides credibility to state and local efforts and analysis through position as DOE national laboratory with expertise on clean energy research and deployment

# CEFIA Experience with NREL Technical Assistance – Example

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- **Evaluation of CEFIA’s residential solar investment program: “Comparative analysis of residential solar PV incentive programs”**
  - CEFIA’s need was for research and analysis to inform redesign of a residential solar investment program (RSIP) providing rebates toward addition of 30 MW of installed residential PV capacity by 2022, as mandated by 2011 state legislation
  - Analysis looked at CT’s proposed incentive structure in context of several state and utility incentive approaches
  - CEFIA goal is to accelerate solar market transformation without over-subsidizing residential PV systems, in line with creation of CEFIA as successor organization to the CT Clean Energy Fund (CCEF), with CEFIA conceived as a “green bank” focused on financing solar PV installation
  - NREL assistance contributed to successful development of CEFIA’s RSIP, supporting deployment of 13MW since inception of new program in March 2012, on target to reach 30MW goal as early as 2015
  - Incentive program scaled rebates down from 50% to about 25% of installed cost



# CEFIA Experience with NREL Technical Assistance – Example

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- **STAT research and analysis in support of the DOE SunShot Initiative Rooftop Solar Challenge (RSC)**
  - **STAT provided valuable support to our RSC team by providing a series of webinars** to guide us through the challenges of addressing reduction of soft costs and associated administrative processes around solar PV installation (e.g., permitting, planning and zoning, interconnection), as well as sharing access to reports and examples covering pertinent studies, recommendations and best practices
  - **CEFIA applied for assistance from NREL to help our RSC team understand the concept of home rule**, the legislative authority granted to cities, towns and other forms of local government to self-govern, and the impact on strategies to adopt state legislation and municipal regulations to promote adoption of clean energy technologies