

2
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CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Howard Korn
Director of Career & Technical Education and Adult Services

P.O. Box 601 • Port Ewen, NY 12466
Telephone: 845-331-8017 • Facsimile: 845-339-8753
Email: hkorn@mhrinc.org • www.ulsterboces.org

March 1, 2005

Ms. Jaclyn A. Brillling, Secretary
NYS Department of Public Service
3 Empire State Plaza, 14th Floor
Albany NY 12223

Dear Ms. Brillling:

This letter is being written in support of continued funding for System Benefits Charge (SBC) as a means of funding all training initiatives, outreach, education, and other vital market infrastructure initiatives administered through the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). A vital training program in progress at our agency is proof of the positive utilization of the SBC derived funds.

On May 21, 2003 the Adult Career Education Center, a division of Ulster County Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) was awarded a \$144,150 grant from NYSEDA for an Accredited Photovoltaic Practitioner Training Project. The goal of the project is to offer practical courses for PV practitioners and prospective practitioners, to help prepare installers for employment in the field and to meet the requirements of the North American Board of Certified Energy Professionals (NABCEP) for certification as PV Installers.

In pursuit of this goal, the grant has enabled BOCES to purchase training, testing, and safety equipment to meet the requirements for accreditation as a training program and a continuing education provider with the Institute for Sustainable Power (ISP). A six (6) solar module, 990 Watt solar array on a single-axis tracking rack has been installed above the roof of the Ulster BOCES Career & Technical Center in Port Ewen and a grid interactive inverter has been installed for training on grid-connected solar electric systems. Three custom made portable training modules, with integrated solar modules, have been purchased to provide examples and wiring platforms for installation and diagnosis of different battery based solar / inverter systems. Digital multimeters, power meters, thermometers and related test equipment have been obtained for direct use by students during coursework. Safety equipment such as goggles and hard hats has been allocated from facility stock. Some resource library materials have been purchased and others are being evaluated for inclusion in the library collection.

Ms. Jaclyn A. Brillling, Secretary
NYS Department of Public Service
March 1, 2005
Page 2

In addition, BOCES has utilized grant money to work toward completion of the application and supporting documentation for submission to the Institute of Sustainable Power (ISP) for certification as a training facility and a continuing education provider, and has subcontracted for support services including a market survey and development of a web site. With the training infrastructure in place, BOCES staff is working with the instructors to provide and promote courses, including a 40 hour workshop for trade professionals to be held in March 2005. A 210-hour course for PV installers will be offered in fall 2005. It is anticipated that Ulster BOCES can become a regional hub for PV training for new practitioners, skilled trades people, and code enforcement officials and that once the program is fully operational, a variety of courses will be offered several times per year.

A January 2005 report, "Solar PV Development: Location of Economic Activity" by George Sterzinger and Matt Svrcek of the Renewable Energy Policy Project (REPP), predicted that, "the development of PV is recognized as a critical part of an environmentally responsible national energy policy." The REPP Report additionally forecasted that, "with a reasonable set of incentives the solar photovoltaic market in the U.S. could grow more than 30% per year over the next 20 years, from 340MW of installed capacity to 9600MW."

An extension of the SBC program is vital to us all as we move forward to develop a sustainable market for PV, wind, and other energy efficiency technologies. An extension of the SBC Program will provide the necessary funding for training, education and infrastructure development in these emerging fields.

Sincerely,



Howard Korn
Director of Career/Technical
Education & Adult Services