



Solar Industry Recommendations to Conferees on *The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*

Over the last three years the U.S. solar energy industry has grown by more than 45 percent annually. Unless key solar provisions are included in the Recovery Act, the solar industry's recent economic downturn will rapidly accelerate. Strong Recovery Act solar policies will have an immediate impact on domestic jobs, creating more than 67,000 jobs, installing a gigawatt of solar power, and avoiding more than one million tons of carbon emissions in 2009 alone. These figures will more than double in 2010. The solar energy industry is ready now with an army of workers and warehouses filled with equipment that will put the economy back on track with the right stimulus from Congress. More than 3,400 solar companies – located in every state in the nation – are poised to lead the way to economic recovery, provided that conferees:

Enact the Department of Energy Grant Program, with a Provision for Utility-Scale Solar

SEIA supports creation of the grant program and recommends shifting the eligibility period for utility-scale solar projects to those that are placed in service in 2011 and 2012, rather than 2009 and 2010. In this context, “utility-scale” solar projects are those that are greater than 25 MW electric or greater than 10 MW thermal.

Please see [this SEIA fact sheet](#) for additional information.

Support Federal Long-Term Power Purchase Agreements

SEIA recommends allowing the federal government to enter into 30-year power purchase agreements to secure long-term, below-market electricity rates by placing solar energy on federal buildings and lands. (Current limit is 10 years. This provision is not included in either House or Senate version.)

Please see the [SEIA-AWEA letter of support](#) and text of the [Bingaman-Menendez amendment](#) for additional information.

Modify and Enact the Department of Energy Loan Guarantee Program for Renewable Energy Systems

SEIA recommends modifying the new program to allow “new or significantly improved” technologies (along with “commercial” technologies) to qualify for the new component of the DOE Loan Guarantee Program. Use the Senate language, which specifies that projects that “reach financial close by Sept. 30, 2012” are eligible for a loan guarantee. Remove the Senate language prohibiting an applicant from receiving a loan guarantee for a project that will be placed on federal lands.

Please see [this SEIA fact sheet](#) for additional information.

Manufacturing Investment Credit

SEIA supports creation of a 30-percent investment tax credit for facilities engaged in the manufacture of renewable energy property or equipment.