

Solar Direct Meeting Synopsis – January 14, 2009

Attendees: Don Grant, Steve Ramberg, Buck Benson, Jesse Dersheid, Kevin Thompson, Jonathon Hedstrom, Stan Smith, Steve Ortman

Synopsis prepared by: Don Grant

The meeting was basically a get-to-know-each-other and brain-storming session on what the group might do. In addition, there was a discussion on whether or not PV and solar thermal are economically viable.

The ideas that the group might pursue fell into the following 4 areas:

- Get information out to people concerning potential applications
- Work to change people's perceptions as to the efficacy of present day technology
- Identify sources of financial assistance
- Identify and implement one or more high profile projects

Potential activities related to these categories include:

- Share information
 - Provide technology descriptions and links to more detailed info on the CCLEP website;
 - Prepare pamphlets describing the technology
- Perception
 - Prepare examples of cash flow analysis related to installations rather than payback period analysis.
 - Identify "working sites" in the county that people could tour and question the owners on the efficacy of their installations.
- Financial assistance
 - Identify potential sources of financial assistance (State and Federal rebates, USDA grants, Roundup grants, low interest loans, etc.)
 - Keep track of changes in sources as they could potentially change dramatically with the new administration.
- High profile projects
 - Public buildings (Community Center, Hospital, Pool)
 - Businesses (North House, COOP, Buck's, Johnson's, Laundromat)
 - Solar recharge station

Bits of information shared in the meeting included:

- Como is seriously interested in working in the solar thermal field and intends to do at least 1 installation in Cook County in 2009. They have made a proposal to the grand Marais pool for an installation.
- Chicago made a top-down commitment for solar hot water a few years ago that resulted in multiple installations.

Future meeting dates: (all from 7-8:30 pm in the Conference Room at the Community Center:

February 5
February 26
March 5
March 26

