RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

Series 1 – AB 2188 Requirements
Issue 4 – Educational Resources for Small Residential Rooftop Solar Energy Systems

Objective: *To provide educational resources to assist in achieving a safe and code-compliant PV installation in a timely and cost- effective manner.*

1. **Issue Statement:**

   The lack of appropriate information, education and training can hamper the successful transition and deployment of solar energy systems. An inadequately trained workforce can create unnecessary obstacles and delays resulting in an increased cost to industry.

2. **Background:**

   Information, education and training on solar energy systems are abundant and can prove overwhelming. PV training can vary greatly in regard to consistency, regulations, code content and quality. A poorly skilled workforce can potentially compromise industry standards, quality and safety.

3. **Current Status:**

   The adoption of AB 2188 drives the need to provide reliable and updated information and training.

4. **Key considerations:**

   Quality educational resources are critical to the development and maintenance of a skilled and knowledgeable workforce.

   The State of California continues to set far-reaching climate and energy goals. There is a constant evolution of PV system related technologies, product standards, code and utility requirements, permitting and inspection procedures for jurisdictions. This presents a challenge for all stakeholders.

5. **Recommendation(s):**

   Many of the solutions simply require better education, relationship, and communication of expectations between all stakeholders.

The following are practices and resources to consider

1) The California Solar Permitting Guidebook (CSPG) is a current resource based on the California codes that provides regulatory, design, installation guidance for designers, installers and inspectors of residential PV systems - refer to additional resources (1).

2) Increased communication between all industry stakeholders is essential and should be encouraged through active participation in local organization meetings such as SEAC, IAEI, CALBO, CalSEIA, SEIA, CSE and ICC.

3) Use of the SEAC website as an information resource for the solar industry - SEAC publishes all Recommended Practices on its website to further assist the solar industry on common issues, these Recommended Practices can be found at: www.seacgroup.org

For future assistance SEAC plans to develop the following:

4) An online interactive resource that provides consistent information trending in the solar industry and lists available solar training with website links should be developed

5) A research group to identify information and training gaps in the industry

6) A minimum criteria guideline for all available training programs

7) An online forum for all industry stakeholders to come together to share, collaborate and communicate

6. Benefits:

The above recommendations will aid in promoting consistent information, education and training on AB 2188 statewide standards, as well as other valuable solar training programs. This will result in creating a skilled and knowledgeable workforce. Studies show an improvement in productivity and the quality of work following training, thus resulting in a more efficient and effective workforce. Training is also one way of ensuring employees feel valued; it increases staff loyalty and decreases staff turnover.

In addition, a successfully skilled workforce is a strong workforce that will help achieve safe and compliant installation of solar energy systems.

7. Applicable to whom:

The recommendations would apply to all solar energy stakeholders.

Disclaimer: The Recommended Practices of SEAC are tools and information to benefit the solar energy industry. Recommended Practices published by SEAC are non-binding and/or regulatory.

Additional Resources:

(1) California Solar Permitting Guidebook Spring 2015
https://www.opr.ca.gov/docs/California_Solar_Permitting_Guidebook_Spring_2015.pdf

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