Introduction

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The Proceedings include the Call to Action that resulted from the Conference, an overview of the topics and events of the Conference, and the papers. Oral and poster presentations, along with the program and session summaries, are posted at https://www.ases.org/conference/.

SOLAR 2017 – Call to Action

For nearly a half century, ASES has organized and delivered the National Solar Conference. What began as an idea to bring pioneering solar thinkers, designers, and researchers together to drive progress and re-imagine the energy path to the future, continues today as a unique blending of science, business, policy, industry and advocacy. While it is now one of many annual conferences in the field, the National Solar Conference remains unique in its delivery of cutting-edge research, trends, analysis and community-building, the likes of which continue to affect the renewable energy landscape in the U.S.

This year almost 400 participants came together in an intimately structured setting to review and strengthen:

- Technical and policy pathways to a renewable energy world
- Synergies for diverse advocates and organizations working together
- Effectiveness of community efforts across the country
- Advancements in building design and energy efficiency and
- Education and workforce development innovations

Through a dynamic mix of provocative plenary sessions, interactive forums and technical sessions, and networking events, these key calls to action emerged:

- **INFORM** policy makers, utility decision makers and general public of the compelling facts and trends about renewables
- **BUILD** stronger partnerships with other groups and individuals working for a renewable energy world
- **SUPPORT** programs at the community level

ASES welcomes all professionals and advocates to join in the important work to achieve a renewable energy world for all, used wisely and efficiently. Please visit ases.org/conference for more detailed information on conference findings, and the wide variety of presentations.

The conference was made possible through the dedication of many partners, sponsors, volunteers, and staff. Thank you all for your important contributions.
Join ASES and be part of the progress.
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ASES is the U.S. Section of the International Solar Energy Society https://www.ises.org

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SOLAR 2017 Overview

SOLAR 2017 marked the ASES' 46th annual National Solar Conference, an event long-regarded for delivering cutting-edge research and valuable trends and analysis to the solar and renewable energy community. For 46 years, ASES has been bringing together the leading professionals and advocates of solar energy. This year's conference sessions and networking events shared knowledge and built community around technical and policy pathways, solar communities, buildings, education, and working together. SOLAR 2017's collaboration with the co-located U.S. DOE Solar Decathlon integrates the ASES mission of enabling a 100% renewable energy society with the Solar Decathlon's focus on green buildings. It also underscores ASES' role as an essential community-building, knowledge-sharing organization.

Technical and Policy Pathways
The first conference plenary session, Progress to a Renewable Energy Society, provided overviews on global to national to regional pathways that are working. The second plenary, Accelerating Progress Together, explored how policy challenges are being overcome and how bridges are being built across very different constituencies. Advances in a variety of technical and policy approaches were carried throughout the conference sessions (New Technologies, Solar Resource Applications, Solar Cooking, Plant Performance, and Deployment of Distributed Solar Forum)

Solar Community
The Community Challenge workshop on the second day of the conference explored how US communities are working to effectively pursue the renewable energy society goal. Community solar projects and approaches in the US and around the world were discussed on the first day (Community Solar, Solar Communities: Developing World Business Models, and Renewable City Forum), and a special forum on analysis tools developed at NREL for community building completed the focus.

Buildings
This year's conference, co-located with the U.S. DOE Solar Decathlon, provided many opportunities for broader discussions among conference participants and groups involved with the Decathlon. The last conference plenary provided an overview of the Solar Decathlon history and how it is contributing to the renewable energy movement. Sessions on building science and applications (Buildings: Lighting and Other Innovations and Buildings: Net Zero), the Passive Solar track on Bioclimatic Design worldwide, and the Net-Zero PLUS Forum provided ongoing focus on the important role of buildings and energy efficiency throughout the conference.

Education
The conference showcased innovations in education at a wide variety of levels from k-university (Education I and II sessions), to business development (Installer Marketing Forum and the NABCEP certified PV workshops), and consumers (ASES sponsored consumer workshops at the Decathlon). The importance of growing public support for renewable energy through creative outreach was highlighted in the plenary panel discussions and conference conclusions.

Working Together
Working more effectively together was another important theme of the conference. The second day plenary, Accelerating Progress Together, stressed the need to build bridges across groups working toward a renewable energy world, and this theme was reflected in several forums on each day of the conference (Broader Look at Community Sustainability, Spirit and Sustainability, and Energy & Environment Group Synergies).

Building Community Through Business Meetings, Special Events and Daily Networking
The conference provided ample opportunity for informal and formal discussions among the wide variety of attendee backgrounds. ASES Chapters and Divisions caucused, and other groups met throughout the conference. In addition, ASES hosted several special events including the Opening Reception, Emerging Professionals mentoring session and reception (co-sponsored with SwissNex), the Women in Solar Energy forum and luncheon, and the Awards Banquet.

Visit SOLAR 2017 https://www.ases.org/conference/ for more details.