



CICV Solar Updates

September 2016

Upcoming Workshops

CICV will be hosting two workshops in 2017, the first will focus on how colleges and universities can help their surrounding communities become more solar-friendly. To participate in the development of these workshops, for more information and to attend, email Lora Toothman, lora@cicv.org

RFP Update

CICV announced the preferred vendor for its first Solar RFP at our annual Presidents' Meeting on September 27, 2016 at Averett University in Danville, Virginia. On October 26, the vendor hosted a webinar for all the participants of the first Solar RFP, and has begun preliminary meetings with the participating schools. CICV anticipates the first contracts to be finalized before the end of the year, with the rest being signed in early 2017. CICV and the preferred vendor will make a public announcement of the award in the near future.

After contracts are signed, we expect final system design and permitting to be completed by spring 2017, with construction beginning in late spring or early summer 2017.

Reminder: Material from Previous Workshops Available Online

Material from CICV's workshops can be found at

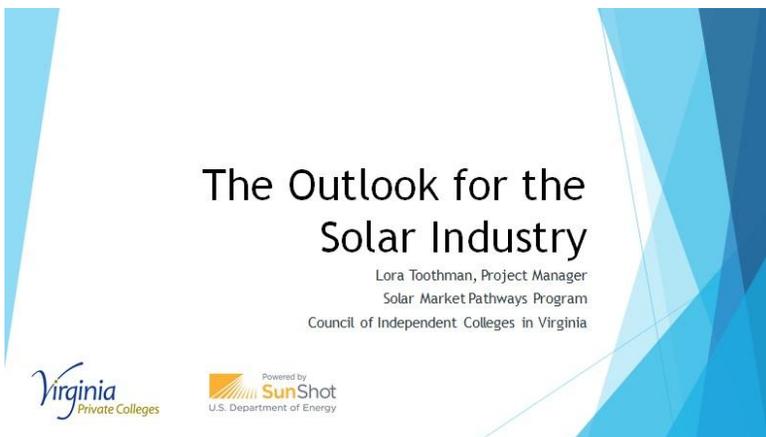
<http://commons.marymount.edu/cicvsola/>.



September 14 Workshop



Solar Market Pathways held its second semi-annual workshop of 2016, “Careers in the Solar Industry: What You Need to Know to Help Students Plot Their Course,” on September 14 at Lynchburg College. Sarah Cosby of Dominion Virginia Power, Alan Brenner and Laura Wasko of Main St. Solar and Sean Price of SolarCity spoke in a panel discussion about the current and future state of the solar industry, and what students at Virginia Private Colleges can do to prepare themselves for a career in the solar industry. Adam Mehr of the Midwest Renewable Energy Association, another grantee of the Solar Market Pathways program, gave a presentation about the MREA and their solar energy certification programs. Student Affairs directors and staff from eight Virginia Private Colleges joined CICV for this informative workshop.



Adam Mehr, Certificate Program Coordinator
Midwest Renewable Energy Association



Image credits:

- Left and Middle right: Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia
- Upper right: Lynchburg College
- Lower right: Midwest Renewable Energy Association

From our Principle Investigator...

CICV and the Solar Market Pathways partner institutions have made significant progress toward our goal of increasing solar energy use over the last quarter. The top-scoring vendor of our first Solar RFP has been announced to our participating institutions, and has begun the important work of contract negotiation and system design.

With individual negotiations underway, we are turning our attention to collecting lessons learned from our first solar procurement, and will publish a document outlining them in December 2016. We will also use those lessons to inform the next iteration of our solar RFP, which we anticipate advertising in late Spring 2017.

In addition to advertising our second RFP, we are also looking forward to our next semi-annual workshop in late March. Working with other Solar Market Pathways grantees, CICV is planning to host an introduction to programs that provide technical assistance to communities looking to reduce the soft costs of installing solar energy for their residents and businesses.

Virginia Private Colleges continue to blaze the trail for increased solar energy adoption in the Commonwealth. We look forward to the advances we will make toward that goal in 2017.

Robert

