

America's Smartland Series: Integrating Solar Energy

MGA



America's Smartland
Midwestern Governors Association

Webinar Agenda

11:00 am Welcome and Background

- Review of Solar Project
- Introduce Project Staff
- Webinar Schedule

11:10 am State Discussion

11:30 am Open Discussion

11:55 am Next Steps

12:00 pm Adjourn

What is the MGA?

- The MGA is a regional association that brings together Midwestern governors and their staff to address public policy issues of significance to the region.
- The MGA provides governors with the opportunity to foster regional development and attain great efficiency in state administration.
- The MGA focuses its efforts in four main policy areas:
 - Agriculture
 - Economic Development
 - Energy
 - Promoting the Midwestern Brand

MGA Grid Modernization

- **The MGA is undertaking a multi-year project focusing on Grid Modernization.**
 - **In the first year, the MGA will host several short-term policy discussions examining grid issues like integrating solar energy, energy storage, energy data, and grid hardening.**
 - **The following year, we will focus on the big picture of grid modernization issues and how the year one topics support modernization.**
- **The Integrating Solar Energy project will be a six-month long examination of how the Midwest is integrating solar energy and what is the future of solar in the Midwest.**
 - **We are planning five webinars and an in-person meeting.**

Solar Project Staff

Janet Streff, JStreff Consulting – janet.streff@gmail.com

After 35 years working in state government and commercial construction, Janet retired from the State of Minnesota as Director of the State Energy Office in early 2016. As director of the Minnesota State Energy Office, she had the opportunity to work with policymakers in the state and other energy professionals across the nation in the areas of energy efficiency, renewable energy and climate change activities.

Brian Ross, Great Plains Institute – bross@gpisd.net

Brian leads the GPI's work to accelerate the development of solar energy as a self-sustaining energy industry, managing technical and policy programs to help local governments, institutions, and businesses implement sustainable practices for renewable energy. Brian currently works in four Midwestern states to transform local government policies and regulatory standards to accommodate solar energy development.

Solar Webinar Schedule

November 15, 2016: *Solar 101*

This webinar lays out solar basics including different market niches of utility scale solar PV, rooftop solar PV, community solar, and solar thermal; costs and benefits associated with each and the role of solar in grid modernization.

December 6, 2016: *Consumer Perspectives*

Business and residential customers can have very different perspectives on solar energy and customer demands are changing quickly. Some businesses are including access to solar and other renewable energy in their siting decision-making, or investigating resiliency benefits of on-site solar plus storage.

January 10, 2017: *Economic & Workforce Development Opportunities*

The webinar will explore options for states to take advantage of a new and growing market—solar manufacturing and installation—accompanied by workforce development opportunities and challenges.

February 7, 2017: *State Policy Options*

Different policies incent or discourage different types of solar development, and different types of solar development present significantly different value propositions that affect grid modernization priorities and design. Policy makers and commissions have taken different approaches with different results. The webinar will include a participant poll to identify areas of interest for in-person meeting.

In Person Meeting

March 8-9, 2017
St. Paul, MN

Today's Webinar Discussion

- **Brief State Summaries**
 - **Open Discussion**
 - **What do you hope to learn?**
 - **What information/ best practices/ strategies would be most helpful for your state to improve integration of solar energy?**
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Next Steps

- 4 webinars are scheduled over the next several months and then an in-person meeting.
- Are there colleagues you have that we should invite to participate? If so, please email us their contact information and we will invite them.

MGA



www.midwesterngovernors.org/Solar.htm

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