

# Fostering and Promoting Solar Energy

## Our Mission

To advance environmental and economic well-being by providing unmatched energy services, products, education and information based on world-class research.

## Overview

Our staff of approximately 100 people (energy engineers, energy specialists, technical experts, software developers, energy research librarians and more) works out of our Olympia, Spokane and other satellite offices. Operating similar to a consulting firm, the WSU Extension Energy Program is a self-supported department within the University.

Our customers include large and small businesses, public and private utilities, local and state governments, tribes, federal agencies and facilities, manufacturing plants, professional and trade associations, schools, universities, national laboratories, and consumers. For more information, visit our website at [www.energy.wsu.edu](http://www.energy.wsu.edu).

## Certifying Solar Energy Systems

The Washington State University Extension Energy Program provides technical expertise to the Washington State Department of Revenue in certifying solar photovoltaic (PV) energy systems that qualify for state incentives.

Signed into law in 2005, Washington State Senate Bill 5101 established a production incentive for homeowners, businesses and local governments that install PV power, wind power or anaerobic digesters. In 2009 the legislature expanded the program to include community solar projects (modified in 2010 by

Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6658). Incentives are based on the amount of electricity produced. The incentive rate depends on project type, technology type and where the equipment was manufactured. Extra incentives are available for solar generating systems that use components manufactured in Washington.

## Providing Technical Assistance

Manufacturers of components, such as solar modules and inverters – as well as electric utilities, installers of solar equipment, and others – can access our technical knowledge and the WSU Energy Library's



resources. Find out about best practices, research, financial incentives and more.

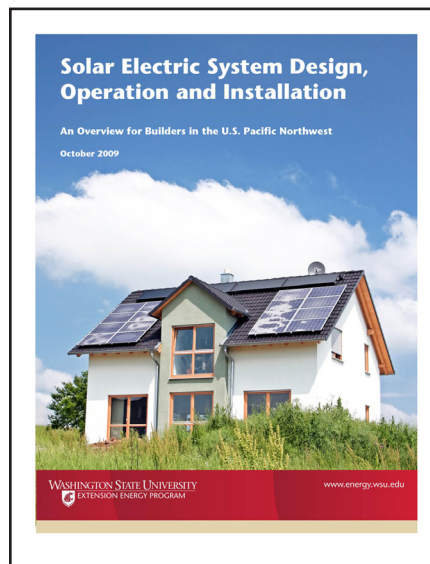
## Supporting Workforce Needs

We are engaged in several workforce-related research projects, policy discussions and initiatives that address the growth of a green economy and job creation. Projects include research of trends and workforce issues in the renewable energy and energy-efficiency industries in Washington – in collaboration with the Center of Excellence for Energy Technology at Centralia College. We also assisted in developing the Clean Energy Technologies Program at Shoreline Community College.

## Delivering Publications and Other Resources

We manage a website that delivers objective and timely information on energy efficiency and renewable energy: [www.EnergyExperts.org](http://www.EnergyExperts.org). There are thousands of resources available here – publications, a training calendar, software, and the latest news about solar energy.

In addition, we published *Solar Electric System Design, Operation and Installation: An Overview for Builders in the U.S. Pacific Northwest* in 2009. Find it at [www.energy.wsu.edu/Documents/SolarPVforBuildersOct2009.pdf](http://www.energy.wsu.edu/Documents/SolarPVforBuildersOct2009.pdf).



## Our Solar Energy Specialist

Phil Lou has experience in the solar photovoltaic (PV) industry – including the design, consultation and installation of PV systems. He has also installed solar thermal systems, and performed residential energy audits and weatherization. He developed curriculum for – and teaches part time in – the Clean Energy Technologies Program at Shoreline Community College.

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