

SUSTAINABILITY DIVISION ANNUAL REPORT 2006

Paulette Middleton, Chair

January 7, 2007

The Sustainability Division, along with other ASES Divisions, has become revitalized this past year. The following Summary Report includes the following overviews and highlights:

- **Sustainability Division Overview of Goals, Scope and Activities**
- **2006 Leadership and Contributions**
- **Plans for 2007**

Sustainability Division Overview

The Sustainability Division assesses and communicates renewable energy options and their contributions to environmental and societal well-being.

The Sustainability Division strives to

- Encourage members to investigate means by which we can create a more sustainable culture emphasizing the role of renewable energy
- Present information about aspects of sustainability during annual meetings
- Disseminate sustainability information and concepts to ASES members
- Coordinate support for the concept of sustainability with other professional societies
- Communicate endorsements of sustainability legislation to public officials particularly in reference to renewable energy

Conceptual Basis for Sustainability Division Scope and Activities

Scope: The concept of sustainability is connected to the environmental, technological, economic, sociological and political aspects of our human ecosystem. Sustainability involves values and beliefs. Human behavior determines the direction toward or away from sustainability. Thus, the Sustainability Division activities seek to integrate energy resources, energy security, material resources and material uses through ethical, behavioral and technical means.

Sustainability Definition: Sustainability means that one generation will meet its own needs without decreasing any future generation's ability to do the same. Sustainability also means that human and natural ecosystems will be able to maintain their integrity (structures) and function (relationships) through time without the long-term detriment to natural ecosystems.

Reasoning: The structure and function of sustainable ecosystems depends on the flow of energy and the cycling of resources. How energy is used as it flows through ecosystems is fundamental to maintaining the integrity of the ecosystem. A source of energy for

humans that causes the least detrimental effects will help sustain the integrity and function of ecosystems best. Solar energy has sustained natural ecosystems without degradation for eons. Thus, solar energy (and other key renewable energy sources) should be pursued as the primary source of energy to maintain a sustainable human ecosystem. The cycling of resources in constructing new structures is also fundamental to maintaining the integrity of ecosystems. The use of materials having the longest cycle life will be the most beneficial to sustainable human ecosystem and will cause the least detrimental effects on other ecosystems.

2006 Leadership and Contributions

Details of the Sustainability Division 2006 activities including reports, newsletters, leaders and new by-laws are conveniently posted on the ASES web site at <http://www.ases.org/divisions/sustain.htm>

Current Leadership

- **Paulette Middleton - Chair** Panorama Pathways Boulder, CO e-mail
- **Ben Marcus - Vice Chair** Arizona Solar Energy Association Scottsdale, AZ e-mail
- **Rob Nelson - Past Chair** Heliakos Newcastle, ME e-mail

Division Contributions

- During 2006, the Sustainability Division continued its ongoing support of ASES by:
- Helping with the Annual Conference Solar 2006 through development of forums, sessions, and presentations related to sustainability and by serving on the technical review committee
 - Holding a successful and well-attended annual division meeting at Solar 2006 which resulted in new insights for the new year
 - Assisting with the development of the Solar 2006 report on Renewable Energy: Key to Climate Recovery (*see details below**)
 - Developing of 4 Newsletters (April, June, July and November) to keep full membership informed and engaged
 - Creating new division by-laws
 - Actively working with the Divisions Committee to advance ASES technical contributions

***Report.** The Sustainability Division provided:

Renewable Energy: Key to Climate Recovery Policy References

This report gives an overview of organizational policy positions dealing with climate change and the role of renewables. The report was developed in March 2006.

Plans for 2007

During 2007, the Sustainability Division has the following target activities:

- Continued energizing of the Sustainability Division Membership by early in the year outreach to individuals by the leadership for contribution to the annual conference and to division activities
- Developing one or more forums and technical sessions related to the Solar 2007 conference theme
- Creating 3-4 newsletters for the division
- Making sure that candidates for division leadership are identified before the conference
- Helping ASES outreach through development of materials that highlight the benefits of renewable energy and energy efficiency, with particular focus this year on job creation
- Encouraging other new ideas from the division membership regarding the vigorous promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency in the U.S.