



# **ASES SOLAR 2026**

**Solar for All, Y'all**

## **CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

October 19-21 | Austin, TX

In collaboration with ASES State Chapter:



**TEXAS  
SOLAR  
ENERGY**  
— SOCIETY —

[ases.org/conference](https://ases.org/conference)





## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Sunday, October 18

**Climate Ride/Walk** *(Open to all attendees & the public)*  
 Meet Outside the Front of the Palmer Events Center  
 5:30-8:30pm

### Monday, October 19

**Austin Local Energy Tour** *(Ticket required)*  
 Meet outside Palmer Events Center, near Palmer Pond  
 9:30am - 1:00pm

**Chapter Forum** *(Open to all attendees)*  
 12:30 - 2:30pm

**Divisions Forum and Meet & Greet** *(Open to all attendees)*  
 4:00 - 5:30pm

**Opening Plenary Reception: Accelerating Solar Growth on Local, National, and Global Scale** *(Open to all attendees)*  
 6:00 - 9:00pm

### Tuesday, October 20

**Awards Luncheon** *(Open to all attendees)*  
 11:30am - 12:45pm

**ASES SOLAR 2026 Career & Networking Fair** *(Open to all attendees & the public)*  
 2:00 - 5:00pm

**Fellows Reception** *(Open to all attendees)*  
 5:45 - 6:30pm

**ASES Shine on Solar Gala** *(Additional ticket required)*  
 6:30 - 9:30pm

### Wednesday, October 21

**Industry Spotlight Luncheon** *(Open to all attendees)*  
 2:30 - 3:45pm

**Women in Solar Energy (WISE) Luncheon** *(Open to all attendees)*  
 11:30am - 12:45pm

**Closing Remarks** *(Open to all attendees)*  
 4:00 - 5:00pm

**Texas Solar Energy Society's 50th Anniversary Celebration**  
*(Add On-Ticket)*  
 7:00 - 9:30pm

## WORKSHOPS/COURSES

**5 hr NABCEP Course: PV & the NEC, including the 2026 NEC**  
*(additional ticket required)*  
 Monday, October 19 | 9:30am - 2:30pm

**Bring Your Own Power (BYOP): Tune In, Test Fast, Scale Smart—A New Playbook for Solar Deployment** *(open to all)*  
 Tuesday, October 20 | 8:15 - 8:45 am

**2 hr NABCEP Course with Sean White: Energy Storage Intensive** *(additional ticket required)*  
 Tuesday, October 20 | 1:00 - 3:00pm

**Designing Climate and Regionally Responsive Custom Homes** *(open to all)*  
 Tuesday, October 20 | 3:00 - 4:15pm

**What Three Years of IRA Compliance Taught the Solar Industry: Prevailing Wage, Apprenticeship, & the Road Ahead** *(open to all)*  
 Tuesday, October 20 | 4:30 - 5:15pm

**3 hr NABCEP Course with Sean White: Energy Storage & the NEC** *(additional ticket required)*  
 Wednesday, October 21 | 2:00 - 5:00pm

Have any questions? Email [conference@ases.org](mailto:conference@ases.org)

For more information: [ases.org/conference](https://ases.org/conference)

**S**OLAR 2026 is held in partnership with the Texas Solar Energy Society (TXSES) during its landmark 50th anniversary year. Under the theme "Solar for All, Y'all," the conference will spotlight innovations, strategies, and actions, organized into three subthemes:

- **Advancing Access for All:** Policy, economics, and technologies (smart buildings, communities, and strategies)
- **Expanding Education for All:** K-12, emerging professionals, workforce development, and the general public (buildings as teachers)
- **Addressing New Challenges Affecting All:** Data centers, artificial intelligence, shifting project support, and accelerating weather extremes

This year's venue, the Palmer Events Center, holds a LEED Gold certification for energy efficiency and sustainability, awarded by the U.S. Green Building Council. The center operates on 100% renewable energy through Austin Energy's Green Choice Program and features a 185 kW PV array. We are thrilled to host our event at a facility that perfectly aligns with our mission at ASES.

**Celebrating  
TXSES' 50<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary at  
SOLAR 2026!**



**TEXAS  
SOLAR  
ENERGY**  
— SOCIETY —

"Celebrating 50 years of the Texas Solar Energy Society during a national gathering like SOLAR 2026 is a tremendous milestone for our state and our community. Texas has long been a leader in solar innovation and adoption, and we are honored to welcome renewable energy professionals, students, and advocates from across the country to Austin. This anniversary highlights our continued commitment to expanding clean, resilient, and accessible solar energy for all Texans."

**Pete Parsons, SOLAR 2026 Co-Conference Chair**  
*Executive Director, Texas Solar Energy Society (TXSES)*



## **SOLAR 2026 NATIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

**Carly Rixham**, ASES Executive Director  
**Ella Nielsen**, ASES Programs Director  
**Patrice Parsons**, Co-Conference Chair  
**Victor Olgyay**, Co-Conference Chair  
**Paulette Middleton**, Technical Chair  
**Tamara Kowalski**, TXSES  
**Dave Renne**, Dave Renne Renewables  
**Dara Bortman**, Sustainable Solar Systems  
**Emily Moog**, Sandia National Laboratory  
**Gilbert Michaud**, Loyola University Chicago  
**Debbie Coleman**, SunPlans  
**Dave Ginley**, National Laboratory of the Rockies (NLR)

## **SOLAR 2026 LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

**Bill Byrom**, North Texas Clean Energy Group (NTXCEG)  
**Michael DeRosia**, ASES  
**Michael Ewert**, Houston Renewable Energy Group  
**Tamara Kowalski**, TXSES  
**Victor Olgyay**, SOLAR 2026 Co-Chair  
**James Orenstein**, Solar Synergy, LLC  
**Patrice Parsons**, TXSES & SOLAR 2026 Co-Chair  
**Shanru Tian**, University of Texas Arlington  
**Tracy Wallace**, NTXCEG  
**Tom Weirich**, CoVolt Power  
**Kaiba White**, Public Citizen

## **2026 TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**Paulette Middleton**, Chair  
**Trudy Forsyth**, Divisions Chair  
**John Steele**, Education Chair  
**Robert Foster**, Past ASES Board Chair  
**Dorothy Gerring**, Solar Building Division Rep  
**David Ginley**, NOC member  
**Bill Guernsey**, Grid Modernization & Storage Rep  
**Nir Krakauer**, Past Chair of Technical Divisions  
**Dave Renne**, NOC member  
**Gilbert Michaud**, Policy Chair  
**Emily Moog**, Grid Modernization & Storage Rep  
**Victor Olgyay**, Conference Co-Chair  
**Lisa Qiuhua Duan**, Sustainability Chair  
**Manajit Sengupta**, Resource Applications Chair  
**Rich Stromberg**, PV Chair  
**Henry Vandermark**, Solar Thermal Vice Chair  
**Julian Wang**, Solar Buildings Vice Chair

## **ASES STAFF**

**Carly Rixham**, Executive Director  
**Sarah Townes**, CFO & Zero Emissions Network Director  
**Ella Nielsen**, Programs Director  
**Sunshine Urbaniak**, Creative Director  
**Tom Freeman**, Business Development  
**Michael DeRosia**, Business Development  
**Kathryn White**, Business Development  
**Remi Akinwonmi**, Technical Volunteer







# PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

## Sunday, October 18

### Climate Ride/Walk to the Congress Bridge Bats *(Free - registration required)*

5:30 - 8:30pm | Meet Outside the Front of the Palmer Events Center

Join us the evening before the SOLAR 2026 conference starts for a ~3 mile walk or ~10 mile bike ride around Austin, TX! After our walk/ride, we will meet at the Congress Bridge to view the bats. The event raises awareness for sustainable climate solutions and active transportation. After the ride/walk, we will gather at a local restaurant for a snack, share stories, and continue the fun!

Registration required:

[support.climateride.org/events/932](https://support.climateride.org/events/932)

## Monday, October 19

### 5 hr NABCEP Course: PV & the NEC Including 2026 NEC *(Ticket required)*

9:30am - 2:30pm | Meeting Rooms 4 & 5

**Instructor:** Sean White, Solar PV Professor, Master Trainer NABCEP

This fun workshop will be jam-packed with National Electrical Code (NEC) insight and interpretation. Instructor Sean White teaches PV and Energy Storage courses around the world and has authored many technical Storage and Solar books, including PV and the NEC, which he coauthored with Bill Brooks. This course counts toward NABCEP continuing education requirements in every category and also fulfills prerequisites for NABCEP Certifications. This course includes a \$100 credit for Sean's HeatSpring classes.

### Austin Local Energy Tour *(Ticket required)*

9:30am - 1:00pm | Meet Outside the Front of the Palmer Events Center

Join us for a tour around Austin to check out various solar sites in the area. Get a taste of what a local solar tour in Austin is like. You won't want to miss this! Transportation will be provided. We will meet right outside of the Palmer Events Center at 9:15am.

### ASES Chapter Forum *(Open to all attendees)*

12:30 - 2:30pm | Meeting Rooms 1 & 2

**Moderators:** John Avenson, Chapter Liaison to the ASES Board, Marianne Leone, ASES Chapter Leader

This interactive session brings together ASES Chapter leaders, members, and supporters from across the country to share successes, challenges, and innovative ideas. Attendees will hear short updates from several chapters, engage in open discussion, and explore opportunities for collaboration and mutual support. Whether you're part of an established chapter or looking to start one, this forum is a great space to connect, get inspired, and strengthen the ASES network.

### JEDI Orientation & Student Symposium *(Invite only)*

1:30 - 4:00pm | Meeting Rooms 4 & 5

**Moderator:** Remy Pangle, Repowering Schools

Each year, ASES offers a handful of complimentary conference passes to expand our outreach to emerging professionals and strengthen our commitment to JEDI (justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion) principles by increasing access to the event and supporting a diverse group of conference attendees and ASES members. This is a needs-based scholarship. JEDI scholars will attend a pre-conference orientation to set them up for success at the three-day conference and hear insightful talks from working professionals, followed by interactive Q&A sessions.

Thanks to our ongoing partnership with REPowering Schools, we are able to provide a handful of complimentary hotel accommodations for JEDI scholars coming from out of state.

### Volunteer Training *(Invite only)*

3:00-4:00pm | Meeting Rooms 1 & 2

**Lead:** Ella Nielsen, ASES Programs Director

All conference volunteers are required to attend this 1-hour volunteer training.



## Monday, October 19

### Divisions Forum and Meet & Greet (Open to All Conference Attendees)

4:00 - 5:30pm | Meeting Rooms 1 & 2

#### Divisions Leadership:

**Trudy Forsyth (Moderator)**, Chair of Technical Divisions

**Nir Krakauer**, Past Chair of Technical Divisions

**Education:** John Steele

**Energy Economics:** Wyldon Fishman, Daniel Simon

**Grid Modernization and Storage:** Bill Guernsey, Emily Moog

**Photovoltaics:** Rich Stromberg, Kajal Sheth

**Policy:** Gilbert Michaud

**Sustainability:** Paulette Middleton, Taylor Ryan, Qiuhua (Lisa) Duan

**Resource Applications:** Manajit Sengupta, Remi Akinwonmi

**Solar Buildings:** Julian Wang, Debbie Coleman

**Solar Thermal:** Henry Vandermark

The ASES Divisions bring together diverse members with similar interests in order to engage, educate, and grow the community through an exchange of information. Divisions conduct outreach and ensure that ASES programs and publications are technically accurate. Formerly the Technical Divisions Caucus, the Chairs of the Divisions will report on the Division activities and state of affairs of each Division, followed by a discussion of how to engage a broader audience. All conference attendees are welcome to join the Divisions Forum. Division involvement is a gateway to ASES involvement.

### Plenary: Accelerating Solar Growth on Local, National, and Global Scale

6:00 - 9:00pm | Exhibit Hall 2

**Welcome Speakers:** **Carly Rixham**, ASES Executive Director, **Karen Soares**, ASES Board Chair

**Plenary Panelists:** **Pete Parsons (Moderator)**, TXSES, **Anya Schoolman**, Solar United Neighbors, **John Szoka**, Conservative Energy Network, **Tim Harvey**, Austin Energy, **Dave Renné**, Dave Renné Renewables

The opening plenary session explores what it will take to accelerate renewable energy growth from the local to the global level. Leaders from across the sector will discuss how innovation, policy, and collaboration can align to drive rapid, scalable change.

## Tuesday, October 20

### Networking Coffee Connections

7:45-8:15am | Exhibit Hall 2

### Bring Your Own Power (BYOP):: Tune In, Test Fast, Scale Smart—A New Playbook for Solar Deployment (Open to all conference attendees)

7:45 - 8:45am | Meeting Rooms 4 & 5

**Instructor:** **Tabitha Scott**, Gilbane

#### 3 Learning Themes

##### 1. Shed the “Shoulds” of Solar Deployment:

Challenge legacy assumptions around permanent-first infrastructure, long timelines for interconnection and permitting, centralized, utility-scale-only thinking, and reframe solar not as a fixed asset, but as a flexible, deployable tool.

##### 2. Tune into What Each Site Actually Needs:

Move from standardized solutions → context-driven deployment, Construction sites, data centers, fast-growth communities, resilience gaps. Identify real constraints (power demand spikes, temporary loads, grid delays)

##### 3. Take Smart Risks to Accelerate Adoption:

Why waiting for “perfect” conditions slows decarbonization, using pilot deployments and modular systems to test, learn, and scale.

### Networking with Sponsors and Posters

8:45-9:00am | Exhibit Hall 2

### Plenary: Bill McKibben on Big Lessons on Solar from Texas

9:00 - 10:15am | Exhibit Hall 2

**Speakers:** **Krys Boyd (Moderator)**, NPR, **Bill McKibben**, Author & Founder of Third Act

In this keynote session, Bill McKibben explores the big lessons emerging from Texas, where rapid solar growth is transforming one of the nation's largest energy markets. Drawing from his latest book, *Here Comes the Sun: A Last Chance for the Climate and a Fresh Chance for Civilization*, he examines how solar is scaling quickly, even in a traditionally fossil-fuel-driven state. This session will highlight what Texas gets right, from market dynamics to deployment speed, and why it offers a powerful model for the broader energy transition. Attendees will gain insight into how these lessons can accelerate solar adoption nationwide.

## Networking Break with Sponsors and Posters

10:15-10:30am | Exhibit Hall 2

## Interactive Poster Session 1: Education, Community Impact, and Texas Solar Leadership

10:30-11:45am | Exhibit Hall 2

**Poster Judges:** ASES Technical Review Committee

Join presenters from across academia, industry, government, and nonprofit organizations as they showcase innovative projects and research focused on renewable energy education, community-driven solutions, equitable energy access, and policy advancements. This interactive poster session also highlights pioneering solar initiatives from across Texas, offering attendees the opportunity to explore successful programs, share ideas, and engage directly with the people driving solar adoption and community impact. This poster session provides a dynamic forum for networking, collaboration, and knowledge exchange. We will present the poster award winners based on visual presentation and oral discussions during the closing remarks session on Wednesday at 4pm. **Please see the full list of poster presentations starting on page 15.**

## Oral Session 1: Strengthening the Grid with Solar

10:30-11:45am | Meeting Rooms 1 & 2

**Moderator:** Dave Renné, *Dave Renné Renewables*, Nir Krakauer, *City College of New York*

Transforming the electricity grid to one dominated by variable renewable sources coupled with storage technologies also means strengthening the grid's reliability, security, and flexibility. These oral presentations focus on key topics for successfully integrating renewables into the grid, especially as per-capita electricity demand rapidly increases. Presentations address wide-ranging topics such as enhancing the grid's flexibility through solar forecasts, optimizing ways to plan for and accommodate the rapid growth of AI data centers, improving decision-making through better data and modeling tools, managing the transformation on the demand side, and deploying agrivoltaics as a way to optimize land use and improve financial returns. Attendees will come away with an improved understanding of how proper deployment of solar plus storage enhances system flexibility and reliability and renewable electricity access opportunities for all.

## Oral Session 1: Strengthening the Grid with Solar *(continued)*

10:30-11:45am | Meeting Rooms 1 & 2

### **Speakers:**

- **Jaemo Yang**, *National Laboratory of the Rockies* | Improving Energy-Relevant Projections through Bias-Aware Dynamical Downscaling of Earth System Models
- **Yu Xie & Aron Habte**, *National Laboratory of the Rockies* | Improving the National Solar Radiation Database using PSM V4
- **Ahmed Eldifrawi**, *Retired* | Mapping the Economic Viability of Residential Solar PV Systems Using Multi-Parameter Analysis and Real Operating Data
- **Shanru Tian & Tony Robinson**, *University of Texas at Arlington* | Enhancing Energy Grid Resilience through AI-Physics Hybrid Solar Forecasting at Subseasonal-to-Seasonal (S2S) Scales
- **Debaleena Majumdar & Sagnik Mazumdar, PhD**, *University of Central Florida* | Agrivoltaic Development in USA

## Networking Break with Sponsors and Posters

11:45-12:00pm | Exhibit Hall 2

## ASES Awards Luncheon *(Open to all attendees)*

12:00 - 1:30pm | Exhibit Hall 2

**Moderators:** Sean White & Jill Cliburn, *ASES Awards Co-Chairs*

Join us as ASES celebrates individuals making significant contributions to solar and renewable energy at the 2026 ASES Awards Luncheon in Austin. Scan the QR code below to meet this year's winners and read their bios.



## ASES Awards Luncheon *(continued)*

12:00 - 1:30pm | Exhibit Hall 2

**Moderators:** Sean White & Jill Cliburn, *ASES Awards Co-Chairs*

- **John and Barbara Yellott for Graduate Solar Research:** Roshan Kumar
- **Code Development, Innovation & Training in Honor of Claudia Hansen Wentworth:** John Wiles
- **Women in Solar Energy (WISE):** Jill Cliburn
- **Volunteer Service in Honor of Rebecca Vories:** Debbie Coleman
- **Leadership in Solar Policy and Market Transformation:** Patrice "Pete" Parsons
- **Leadership in Solar Architecture and Design:** M. Keith Sharp
- **Applied Solar Technology in Honor of Hoyt Clarke Hottel:** Rich Stromberg
- **Innovative Research and Development in Honor of Charles Greeley Abbot:** Teresa Barnes

## 2 hr NABCEP Course: Energy Storage Intensive *(Ticket required)*

1:00 - 3:00pm | Meeting Rooms 4 & 5

**Instructor:** Sean White, *Solar PV Professor, Master Trainer NABCEP*

This workshop will count for NABCEP credit and will be fast-paced, fun, and cover a lot of information. Attendees are recommended to be alert, take good notes, read the instructor's books, and study the material intensively for the week following the course. For maximum learning, attendees can read the instructor's book, *Energy Storage Basics*, before the course. Topics covered include energy storage systems (ESS) vs. storage batteries, lithium-ion chemistries, flow batteries, fuel cells, lead-acid batteries, charge controllers, inverters, ac & dc coupling, ancillary services, self-consumption, power vs. energy ratings, system sizing, residential, commercial, and utility-scale storage. This course includes a \$100 credit for Sean's HeatSpring classes.



## Plenary Panel: How Data Centers Are Reshaping Energy Demand

1:45-2:45 pm | Exhibit Hall 2

**Speakers:** Dave Ginley (Moderator), NLR, Meghan Pazik, *Public Citizen*, Margo Weisz, *TEPRI*, Susan Adams, *Greenlight America*, Deepjyoti Deka, *MIT*, Doug Lewin, *Google*

Data center growth raises legitimate concerns about water use, land impacts, and strain on local resources, especially in already stressed regions. These facilities should be held to high standards for efficiency, siting, and community accountability. At the same time, data centers now underpin essential services, making their presence difficult to avoid. Given that reality, we have a responsibility to minimize their environmental footprint. Pairing data centers with solar energy offers a practical path to reduce emissions and dependence on fossil fuels. A balanced approach means both scrutinizing their impacts and ensuring they are powered as cleanly and responsibly as possible today.

## Career & Networking Fair *(Open to all attendees & the public)*

3:30-5:00pm | Exhibit Hall 2

Are you ready to take your career to the next level in the renewable energy industry? The ASES Career Fair: Powering a Bright Future is your gateway to exciting opportunities and connections that will shape the future of energy. Whether you are a student, a recent graduate, or an experienced professional, this event is designed to connect you with leaders and innovators across the renewable energy spectrum.

- Develop your professional story
- Expand your network
- Connect with hiring recruiters

## Workshop: Designing Climate and Regionally Responsive Homes: What should come BEFORE the Renewables *(Open to all conference attendees)*

3:00 - 4:15pm | Meeting Rooms 4 & 5

**Instructors:** Peter Pfeiffer, *Barley|Pfeiffer Architecture*, John Barrows, *P3 Builder Group, Inc*

Climate change is making many of our environments harsher and more extreme. We need to do a major "reset" and adjust the way we DESIGN and build our homes to respond. Building performance is as critical as renewables.



## Workshop: Designing Climate and Regionally Responsive Homes: What should come BEFORE the Renewables *(continued)*

3:00 - 4:15pm | Meeting Rooms 4 & 5

**Instructors:** **Peter Pfeiffer**, *Barley|Pfeiffer Architecture*, **John Barrows**, *P3 Builder Group, Inc*

Two nationally established veterans of the green building movement, an architect and a builder, team up to present a holistic approach to designing and constructing truly sustainable, attainable, resilient, and cost-effective climate-responsive homes. They will demonstrate climate-appropriate project programming, design, and construction strategies utilizing tried-and-true passive strategies that create homes that are healthier, more durable and less expensive to own and operate. They will demonstrate the bridge between Design for sustainability and today's ever-changing technological gadgets/ building science solutions. Their different design and construction backgrounds and experiences will be utilized to provide historical context for a climate responsive building movement enabling builders, architects, and industry thought leaders to return to more thoughtful, climate-reality-based project PROGRAMMING and DESIGN strategies.

## Oral Session 2: Expanding Solar Access With Policy and With Communities

3:00 - 4:15pm | Meeting Rooms 1 & 2

**Moderators:** **Gilbert Michaud**, *University of Chicago Loyola*, **Paulette Middleton**, *Panorama Pathways*

Expanding solar access requires strategies that address persistent barriers to participation in the energy transition. This session highlights innovative policy, programmatic, and community-driven approaches to broadening solar participation. Presentations examine emerging policy frameworks for plug-in ("balcony") solar and other pilot initiatives that lower barriers for renters and multifamily households, tribally led clean energy strategies that advance long-term resilience, community-driven financing models (i.e., a carbon fee) to spur local solar deployment, lessons learned from community solar policy design and implementation, and finally, national efforts to move solar access programs from neighborhood pilots to systemic reform. Together, these presentations will highlight how policy innovation and community leadership can create a pathway for making solar energy more accessible.

## Oral Session 2: Expanding Solar Access With Policy and With Communities *(continued)*

3:00 - 4:15pm | Meeting Rooms 1 & 2

**Moderators:** **Gilbert Michaud**, *University of Chicago Loyola*, **Paulette Middleton**, *Panorama Pathways*

### Speakers:

- **Liz Veazy**, *Solar United Neighbors* | Transforming solar access with plug-in solar policy
- **Gigi Goldman**, *We Care Solar* | Solar Access Starts in the Classroom: A Chicago Model Connecting Policy, Industry and Communities
- **Gilbert Michaud**, *Loyola University Chicago* | Policy Intent vs. Policy Outcomes: Lessons From California's Community Solar Programs
- **Zo Mpofu**, *Solar United Neighbors* | Solar Access: From Field Operations to Systemic Reform

## Oral Session 3: Education for All Y'all

4:30 - 5:45pm | Meeting Rooms 1 & 2

**Moderators:** **John Steele**, *Colorado School of Mines*, **Trudy Forsyth**, *ASES Technical Divisions*

With the addition of the recent ASES Education Division, this new session at the national solar conference will focus on the increasing importance of education around solar energy of all kinds and how it integrates into the built environment. Starting with the excellent examples of educational programs in Austin K-12 and higher education, and continuing to details of solar installer programs, creative learning for kids, and organizations that connect older adults who are looking for ways to get involved, this session will cover a broad range of successful educational programs throughout the U.S. and beyond.

- **Darien Clary & Carsen Daniel**, *Austin Independent School District* | Encouraging Bright Futures: Engaging Students in Solar Energy
- **Remy Pangel**, *KidWind* | SolSPARK — A program to spark teacher engagement and students' curiosity about a solar-powered future through hands-on learning and a global energy perspective.
- **Jess Walker**, *SolarBuddy* | The Role of the Solar Community in Advancing Energy Equity and a Just Energy Transition

## Oral Session 3: Education for All Y'all (continued)

- **Ron Celentano**, *Philadelphia Solar Energy Association* | Solar Kits from Upcycled solar panels make powerful learning tools.
- **Tish Tablan**, *Generation180* | What Schools Can Teach Us All About Scaling Solar and Battery Storage
- **Riley Neugebauer**, *Solar for Women* | Solar Workforce & Electrical Licensure Analysis: State-Level Constraints and Gender Representation in the U.S. Electrical Trades

## Workshop: What Three Years of IRA Compliance Taught the Solar Industry: Prevailing Wage, Apprenticeship, and the Road Ahead.

4:30 - 5:15pm | Meeting Rooms 4 & 5

**Instructors:** Flora Le

The Inflation Reduction Act transformed labor compliance across the solar industry, introducing prevailing wage and apprenticeship requirements that affected project costs, workforce development, and project execution. This session will examine the lessons learned from three years of IRA implementation, including the real costs of compliance, whether apprenticeship requirements achieved their intended workforce development goals, and which best practices should remain in place even as federal incentives phase out. The workshop will also explore the next generation of solar incentive programs at the state level, with a focus on emerging opportunities and compliance considerations under programs such as Illinois Shines, NY-Sun, and Maryland's Clean Energy Grant and incentive programs. Attendees will gain practical insights into navigating the evolving policy landscape and preparing their organizations for a post-IRA market.

## Fellows Reception (Open to all attendees)

5:45-6:30pm | Balcony: outside of Meeting Rooms 1-5

**Hosts:** Karen Soares, *ASES Awards Chair*, **Dave Ginley**, *NLR*, **Dave Renne**, *Dave Renne Renewables*

The ASES Fellows Program recognizes long-term members of ASES who have made extraordinary contributions to the field of solar energy and to the Society.

## Fellows Reception (continued)

The Fellows Committee includes Karen Soares (Chair), Jill Cliburn, Gilbert Cohen, Scotte Elliot, Randy Gee, Gabriela Martin, Margot McDonald, Paulette Middleton, Carly Rixham, and Mark Thornbloom. See the fellows' bios in the QR Code below:

### ASES Fellows 2026 Inductees:

- **Gay Canough**, *Extraterrestrial Materials, Inc.*
- **Scott Sklar**, *The George Washington University*
- **John Avenson**, *ASES Board Member*
- **Gail Burrington**, *Burrington's Solar Edge*
- **Ron Celentano**, *Celentano Energy Services*
- **Debbie Coleman**, *Sun Plans, Inc*
- **Nir Krakauer**, *City College of New York*
- **Martin Ogle**, *Geo Sapians*
- **Andrew Stone**, *New Mexico Solar Energy Association*
- **Bill Young**, *Florida Solar Energy Association*



## ASES Shine on Solar Gala (additional ticket required)

6:30 - 9pm | Exhibit Hall 2

**Hosts:** Carly Rixham, *ASES*, **Nick Galusha**, *Auctioneer*, **Georgia Parker**, *Live Trio Band*

Join us for an unforgettable evening at the Palmer Events Center ballroom as SOLAR 2026 comes together for a night of celebration, community, and impact. The Shine on Solar Gala brings together solar professionals, advocates, and supporters for dinner, live music, and a paddle-raise fundraiser. All in support of ASES's mission to accelerate equitable solar adoption nationwide.

The evening kicks off with dinner and a local Texas western swing band, *Georgia Parker*, setting the tone for a warm, celebratory atmosphere. As the night unfolds, our live auction takes the stage, featuring exclusive experiences and items all generously donated by our community. The evening's paddle raise gives every guest the chance to make a direct, meaningful contribution to ASES's solar education and equity programs. **This event is black-tie optional!**

## Networking Coffee Connections

7:45-8:15am | Exhibit Hall 2

## Spirit and Sustainability Forum: Share - Support - Celebrate

8:00 - 8:45am | Meeting Rooms 1 & 2

**Speakers:** **Paulette Middleton (Moderator)**, *SOLAR 2025 Technical Chair*, **Orlo Stitt**, *Holistically Green Living, LLC*

In this interactive forum, all are welcome to speak, share a reflection, an opinion, or simply listen; there's no pressure to talk, only an open invitation to be heard. Now more than ever, we, as individuals and organizations, are called to action. The climate crisis is accelerating; renewable energy is being attacked. Democracy and decency are being challenged. Join this year's Spirit & Sustainability Forum to share positive, impactful actions, build support for one another, and celebrate the successes we are seeing. We are advocates, consumers, and voters. We are protesters, protectors, and partnership builders. We care. We are kind. We are hopeful, especially today.

## Plenary Panel: Beyond the Tipping Point: Lessons from Texas on Integrating Supply and Demand

9:00 - 10:00 am | Exhibit Hall 2

**Speakers:** **Allison Silverstein (Moderator)**, *Independent Consultant*, **Josh Rhodes**, *University of Texas at Austin*, **Karl Rábago**, *Rábago Energy LLC*, **Will McAdams**, *McAdams Energy Group, LLC*

Texas is often viewed through the lens of fossil fuels and past grid failures, yet it has become one of the nation's fastest-growing solar markets and has met rising electricity demand without recent power shortages. Using Texas as a case study, this plenary will examine how large-scale renewable deployment, demand-side integration, and system-level planning are enhancing grid flexibility and resilience, and how certain technologies have moved beyond the tipping point where incentives are no longer the primary driver of adoption. Using examples from residential, commercial, industrial, and utility-scale projects in parts of Texas, the session will explore what this transition means for scaling sustainable energy systems nationwide.

## Networking Break with Sponsors and Posters

10:00 - 10:15am | Exhibit Hall 2

## Interactive Poster Session 2: Building Solutions, Grid Resilience, and Emerging Technologies

10:15 - 11:30am | Exhibit Hall 2

**Poster Judges:** ASES Technical Review Committee

Explore cutting-edge research and innovative applications advancing the future of renewable energy. This poster session features presentations on high-performance and net-zero buildings, solar-powered solutions for grid reliability and resilience, and emerging technologies that are transforming energy generation, storage, and solar manufacturing. Attendees can engage directly with presenters, discuss technical findings, and discover new approaches to accelerating the clean energy transition through spanning research, development, and real-world implementation. We will present the poster award winners based on visual presentation and oral discussions during the closing remarks session on Wednesday at 4pm. **Please see the full list of poster presentations starting on page 13.**

## Oral Session 4: Solar Trailblazing in Texas

10:30-11:45am | Meeting Rooms 1 & 2

**Moderators:** **Paulette Middleton**, *Panorama Pathways*, **Robert Foster**, *New Mexico State University*

In honor of SOLAR 2026 being in Austin and ASES' celebration of the Texas chapter's 50th birthday, these oral presentations highlight some of many wide-ranging innovations in solar happening here in Texas. From technology to grids to access to policy to education, Texas researchers, utilities, businesses, teachers and advocates are providing leadership and innovation. This session will provide a broad overview of how Texas is forging many exciting solar pathways.

### **Speakers:**

- **David Levesque & Kaiba White**, *Solar Austin | Racing (Sometimes at a Crawl) Toward Carbon-Free by 2035: How Advocacy, Policy, and Participation Are Winning in Austin, Texas*



## Oral Session 4: Solar Trailblazing in Texas (continued)

### Speakers:

- **Sarah Matchett**, *Frontier Energy* | Innovating for Inclusion: Low-Income Solar Models with Broader Applicability
- **Michael Martinez**, *Lupine Development & Consulting LLC* | Circular Floating Photovoltaics: Waste-Plastic Composite Platforms for Water-Conserving, High-Efficiency Solar Deployment

## Networking Break with Sponsors and Posters

11:45am-12pm | Exhibit Hall 2

### Luncheon: Industry Spotlight (Open to all attendees)

11:45am-1:00pm | Exhibit Hall 2

### Speakers:

Meet the SOLAR 2026 Conference Sponsors! We couldn't host our conference without their support. Open to all SOLAR 2026 attendees, join us for a special luncheon dedicated to the sponsors powering SOLAR 2026. Each sponsoring organization will have the opportunity to take the mic and share a short presentation on who they are, what they do, and how they're driving innovation in the solar and clean energy industry. It's a great chance for attendees to connect directly with the companies supporting the conference and for sponsors to showcase their work to an engaged audience.

**Carly Rixham (Moderator)**, *ASES*

### Thank you to our sponsors:

- **Michelle Collins**, *SunPR*
- **Anita Ledbetter**, *Build San Antonio Green*
- **Sam Silerio**, *Solar United Neighbors*
- **Thomas Niva**, *Local IQ / USA TODAY*
- **Matt Anderson**, *Veolia*
- **Garrett Chappell**, *Clean Energy Credit Union*
- **Charles Keenan**, *Greentech Renewables*
- **Lauren Martin**, *Freedom Power*
- **Sydney Phillips (Delavan)**, *APsystems*
- **Kaiba White**, *Public Citizen*
- **Mark Thornbloom**, *Kelelo Engineering*
- **Matt Welch**, *CTEI Conservative Texans for Energy Innovation*
- **Raina Hornaday**, *Caprock Renewables*
- **Steve Wiese**, *Frontier Energy*
- **Cody Ackermann**, *Also*

## Women in Solar Energy (WISE) Luncheon (Open to all attendees)

11:30am-12:45pm | Center Ballroom

Speakers: **Marlene Brown (Moderator)**, *WISE Awards Chair*, **Jill Cliburn**, *2026 WISE Award Winner*, **Patrice Parsons**, *TXSES*, **Bhawna Oberi**, *Sol-Ark*, **Raina Hornaday**, *Caprock Renewables*

The purpose of the WISE forum is to inspire women to become more technically involved in solar, not just peripheral to it. It's easy for us to talk about what we do, but this isn't a forum to just talk about our jobs, but about how we got where we are and the obstacles and barriers that we've come up against and broke through or just moved out of the way to continue on our path. This is a forum for accomplished women to share lessons learned and heartfelt stories about their lives. It is the story about the journey

## Building Resilience for All: The Role of Buildings in a Solar-Powered Future

1:15 - 2:15pm | Exhibit Hall 2

Speakers: **Jill Cliburn (Moderator)**, **Heather Holdridge**, *Lake|Flato Architects* **Anita Ledbetter**, *Build San Antonio Green*, **Gail Vittori**, *Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems*

This panel explores how design, technology, policy, and strategic collaboration come together to literally build community resilience. We look at buildings across residential, commercial, and community scales and at programs that extend building-energy benefits to an expanding circle of beneficiaries. How does resilient building design affect technology-based solutions, including solar, batteries, and load flexibility? How have our panelists overcome hurdles to co-optimizing multiple strategies? And what defines a successful community collaboration, aimed at protecting communities from climate risks and costs? Whatever their expertise, attendees will gain a clearer understanding of their own role in this collaboration and be encouraged to engage in this discussion.

## 3 hr NABCEP Course with Sean White: Energy Storage & the NEC (Ticket required)

2:00 - 5:00pm | Meeting Rooms 4 & 5

**Instructor:** Sean White, Solar PV Professor, Master Trainer NABCEP

This fun workshop will be jam-packed with NEC (National Electrical Code) Energy Storage insight and interpretation. Instructor Sean White teaches Energy Storage courses around the world and has authored many technical storage and solar books. This workshop will explain when to use NEC 706 Energy Storage Systems (ESS) and when or if you should use NEC 480 Storage Batteries. Other articles covered will be 710 Stand-Alone Systems, 705 Interconnected Power Production Sources, 625 Electric Vehicle Power Transfer Systems, and of course, references to 690 PV Systems; this is the original Solar Energy Society after all! This course includes a \$100 credit for Sean's HeatSpring classes.

## Oral Session 5: Emerging Technologies for Old Modules, New Efficient Cells and New Energy Generation Approaches

2:30 - 3:45pm | Exhibit Hall 2

**Moderators:** Rich Stromberg & David Ginley

These oral and visual presentations examine the continued evolution of perovskite solar cells, the critical development of recycle pathways for PV modules and the evolution of hybrid PV/thermal/hydrogen storage energy systems.

- **Etienne Cadestin**, *ReVolt Energy* | Revolutionizing Solar End-of-Life: ReVolt Energy's Breakthrough Technology for Scalable PV Recycling and U.S. Critical Mineral Independence
- **Taylor Curtis**, *National Laboratory of the Rockies (formerly NREL)* | Mapping PV End-of-Life Pathways: Hazardous Waste Compliance and Circularity Outcomes
- **Katsumi Araki**, *Alpha Precision Systems Inc* | Full Process Development of Large-Scale Rigid and Flexible Perovskite Modules Using In-House Slot-Die Coating and Vacuum Quenching Technologies
- **Allison Segapeli**, *Graduate Student* | Enhanced Longevity of Methylammonium Lead Iodide Back Contact Photovoltaics Through Utilization of Organic Phospholipid Head Group Post Treatment

## Oral Session 5: Emerging Technologies for Old Modules, New Efficient Cells and New Energy Generation Approaches (continued)

- **David Ginley**, *NLR* | Thermal electric energy conversion Utilizing Next Generation Geothermal, Solar, Nuclear, Fossil and Thermoelectric
- **Austin Mabrey**, *The University of Texas at Austin, Center for Electromechanics* | Analysis and Demonstration of a Hybrid Solar and Hydrogen Power and Energy Storage System for Datacenter Operations

## Oral Session 6: Building Solutions to the Climate Crisis

2:30 - 3:45pm | Meeting Rooms 1 & 2

**Moderators:** Lisa Duan & Victor Olgyay

As the building sector responds to the climate crisis, solar buildings are emerging as cost-effective, high-performance solutions for a cleaner energy future. Presentations (oral and visual) bring together discussions on recent advances in efficient solar buildings, innovative technologies, and integrated energy system strategies. Topics include approaches for improving building performance, optimizing operations and enhancing the effective integration and use of on-site solar energy systems. Also discussed are practical opportunities for scaling solar buildings to advance sustainability, energy resilience, and long-term climate solutions. National programs throughout the U.S. and beyond.

- **Peter Pfeiffer & John Barrows**, *P3 Builder Group Inc* | Designing Climate and Regionally Responsive Homes What should come BEFORE the Renewables (for added benefits)
- **M. Keith Sharp**, *University of Louisville* | Indoor temperature in ambient conditioned buildings with predicted future weather
- **Chima Cyril Hampo**, *Drexel University* | Quantifying Uncertainty and Sensitivity of Envelope Parameters on Indoor Thermal Resilience in Pre-Code U.S. Homes Using Physics-Based Simulations
- **Boris Budagyan**, *Adapses Inc* | AI-Driven Multi-Device Optimization in Integrated Solar PV and Smart Home Ecosystems: Extending AI Synergy to Google Home Devices for Comprehensive Residential Energy Management

## Oral Session 6: Building Solutions to the Climate Crisis *(continued)*

2:30 - 3:45pm | Meeting Rooms 1 & 2

- **Carlos Gamarra**, Houston Advanced Research Center | Beyond Net-Zero with BESS: the HARC building
- **Robert Pena**, University of Washington Department of Architecture | Efficiency Energy: A 10-year Accounting of the Metered Energy Efficiency Transaction Structure (MEETS) at Seattle's Bullitt Center

## Closing Remarks

4:00-5:00pm | Meeting Rooms 1 & 2

**Speakers:** **Victor Olgyay**, *SOLAR 2026 Co-Chair*

## TXSES 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party *(ticket required)*

7:00 - 9:30pm | Exhibit Hall 2

**Host:** **Pete Parsons**, *TXSES Executive Director & SOLAR 2026 Co-Chair*, **Kelly Willis**, *Musician*

Join the Texas Solar Energy Society for a special evening celebrating 50 years of solar advocacy, education, and community in Texas!

The evening will kick off with the TXSES 50th Anniversary Award Ceremony, honoring individuals who have contributed their hard work, dedication, and support to TXSES over the years.

Following the awards ceremony, local & national alt country music star Kelly Willis will take the stage. Stick around, bring your dancing shoes, and help us celebrate 50 years of TXSES!

# POSTER DESCRIPTIONS

**Posters will be on display in Exhibit Hall 2 throughout the conference.**

Poster Session 1: Education, Community Impact, and Texas Solar Leadership | Tuesday, October 20, 10:30-11:45 am

Poster Session 2: Building Solutions, Grid Resilience, and Emerging Technologies | Wednesday, October 21, 10:15-11:30

## POSTER SESSION 1

### Education

- **Soma Rédey**, *Independent Scholar* | Mária Telkes' Industrial Consultations after her Successes with the Dover Sun House project (1945-1955)
- **Martin Ogle**, *Entrepreneurial Earth LLC / Geo Sapiens*; The Earth-Wise Human | Birds & Energy; Connecting the dots in energy understanding
- **Dan Morris**, *FLASEIA Member* | Florida Solar Energy Apprenticeship Program: Powering the Future of the Sunshine State's Workforce
- **David Hrivnak**, *EcoLogical* | Driving to Net 0 - Stories of Hope for a Carbon-Free Future

### Strategies

- **Patrick Thompson**, *Climate Transition Corporation* | Schoolhouses as Microgrid Emergency Centers
- **Joyce McLaren**, *National Laboratory of the Rockies* | Flexible Interconnection and Retail Rate Design for Distributed Energy Resources and New Electric Loads
- **Jamez Staples**, *Minnesota Renewable Energy Society*
- **Robert Foster**, *New Mexico State University*, College of Engineering | Lessons Learned: Rethinking Solar Ice-making for Cabo Verde Fisheries
- **Aidan Lapierre**, *Winrock International* | Ethiopia Village Solar Micro-Milling Feasibility Study

### Strategies *(continued)*

- **Evelyn Carpenter**, *Invera Energy* | From Wind Farms to Data Farms: Practical Strategies for Project Success in Host Communities
- **Akua Debrah**, *University of Houston* | Improving Energy Access and Poverty in Mali: A Multiple Streams Framework Analysis of Solar Energy Pathways in the Sahel
- **Steven Smiley**, *Smiley Energy Services, LLC* | An Evaluation of Plug-In PV "Balcony Solar" Under Multiple Electric Utilities: Municipal, Cooperative and Investor Owned
- **Johnathan Sicard**, *The University of Texas at Austin* | Photons to Pecans: Solar Desalination for Afforestation in Texas
- **Jacob Lennard**, *Butler University* | The Economic Feasibility of Transportable Solar Systems during Transitions to Organic Farming
- **Caitlin deNux**, *University of Louisiana at Lafayette* | Exploring Agrivoltaics in the Gulf South: Multifunctional Land Use at the Louisiana Regional Test Center
- **Shafeeq Shamsid-Deen Jr.**, *The Center by Lendistry* | Solar for All Requires Contractors for All: Building an Inclusive Clean Energy Supply Chain for Community-Led Solar
- **Patrick Thompson**, *Climate Transition Corporation* | Report Card on the IRA



## Texas

- **Mohamed Ali**, *Texas A&M University* | Cognitive Load Mapping of Solar Daylit Spaces: A Human-Centered Framework for Luminous Performance
- **Rifat Tumpa**, *Department of Architecture, College of Architecture, Texas A&M University, College Station* | Exploring Passive and Active Strategies for Energy-Efficient Single-Family House in Austin
- **Gulce Erincik**, *University of Texas at Austin* | A multi-family residential building prototype for net-zero energy ready housing
- **Paul Breaux**, *TXSES* | Long Term Thermal and PV Performance of Chez Soleil
- **SayedMorteza Malaekheh**, *University of Texas at Austin* | Solar Stress: How Rooftop PV impacts Household Financial Health
- **Christina Al Tawil**, *UT Austin* | Enhanced Performance and Longevity of Flexible Perovskite Solar Cells Through Interfacial, Compositional, and Additive Engineering
- **Adharsh Adepalli**, *Texas A&M University* | Impact of Integrating Phase Change Materials (PCM) in the Performance of Solar Photovoltaic/Thermal System (PV/T) for Building Applications

## POSTER SESSION 2

### Buildings

- **Yong You**, *University of Alabama* | Experimental Study of Semi-Transparent PV Windows: Effects of Solar Incidence Angle and Outdoor Boundary Conditions
- **Yizhou Yang**, *University of Alabama* | Data-driven Prediction of Photovoltaic Power Generation Using the DTU BIPV Façade Test Site Dataset
- **Christy Ponnann**, *University of Alabama* | A Simulation Case Study of a Closed-Loop Digital Twin for PV-Aware HVAC Setpoint Optimization in a Small Office
- **Martin Smallen**, *Retired* | Role of Thermal Storage Location in Passive Solar
- **Esam Alawadhi**, *Kuwait University* | Thermal analysis of window with phase change materials having different melting points
- **Keith Sharp**, *University of Louisville* | Using similitude to facilitate design of ambient-conditioned buildings

### Buildings (continued)

- **William Young**, *Florida Renewable Energy Assoc. (FREA)* | There is more to it than solar on a church
- **Armando Cobo**, *Armando Cobo, Designer* | Large Homes Need to Be Sustainable, Resilient, Healthy, and Universal Design
- **Dave Renné**, *Dave Renné Renewables* | Colorado Rockies Off-Grid Solar Home: Sharing Lessons Being Learned
- **Bing Chen**, *Electrical and Computer Engineering / University of Nebraska Lincoln* | Integrating Biodiversity and Sustainability with Renewable and Energy Conservation at the Sustainable Small House

### Technologies

- **Michael Shonka**, *Solar Heat and Electric* | Chilling Out with Solar Thermal
- **Billy Stanbery**, *University of Washington* | The Ascendence of Solar Power
- **Taylor Curtis**, *National Laboratory of the Rockies* | Scaling Photovoltaic (PV) Module End-of-Life Compliance with Acceptable Knowledge: A Regulatory Compliance Pathway for PV Module Hazardous-Waste Determinations

### Integration

- **Yu Xie**, *NLR* | Integration of GOES data for solar resource assessment of the Contiguous United States
- **Luming Xiao**, *Texas A&M University* | Contrasting spectral sky modeling approaches (CCT-based, luminance-based, and atmospheric) with field spectrophotometric measurements in central Texas under clear, partly cloudy, and overcast skies
- **Dave Renne**, *Dave Renne Renewables* | When Extra Solar and Wind Make the Grid Cheaper
- **Steven Goldstein**, *Solar Ice LLC* | Solar-Thermal Refrigeration for Large-Scale Cooling: Field Demonstration Using a Solar-Powered Ice Rink
- **Aron Habte**, *National Laboratory of the Rockies (NLR)* | Data Quality and Uncertainty in Solar Measurements: Key Findings from NLR's SUNI Application

# CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS (CEUS)

SOLAR 2026 offers continuing education units (CEUs) for over 12 workshops, oral presentations, interactive poster displays, and plenary sessions. GreenHome Institute, ASES's educational partner, can provide certificates that may be accepted by a variety of national organizations or by your state-based organization under self-reporting or self-directed education.

The following organizations have approved continuing education\*:

**AIA: American Institute of Architects**

6.75 hr/day, 13.5 hrs total (Health, Safety, Welfare credits)

**BPI: Building Performance Institute**

7.0 hrs/day, 14.0 hrs total

**SARA: Society of American Registered Architects**

7.0 hrs/day, 14.0 hrs total

**GHI: Green Home Institute**

7.0 hrs/day, 14.0 hrs total

**GBCI: Green Business Certification Inc. (USGBC LEED)**

4.5 hrs/day, 9.0 hrs total



\* Only full-day participation will be given. No partial-day credits allowed. Attendees must register electronically once for each day (Tuesday and Wednesday), then sign in manually during each session to verify attendance. Some of the sessions overlap, so attendees will have to choose sessions on-site.



Sign up for our three specialized workshops and courses from the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners® (NABCEP). These sessions are designed to help you meet your continuing education and certification prerequisites. We are excited to feature expert instructor [Sean White](#) for these courses.

**5 hr NABCEP Course: PV & the NEC Including 2026 NEC**

Monday, October 19 | 9:30am - 2:30pm

**2 hr NABCEP Course with Sean White: Energy Storage Intensive**

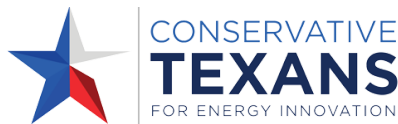
Tuesday, October 20 | 1:00 - 3:00pm

**3 hr NABCEP Course with Sean White: Energy Storage & the NEC**

Wednesday, October 21 | 2:00 - 5:00pm



# THANK YOU TO OUR SOLAR 2026 SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS



The University of Texas at Austin  
Energy Institute



TEXAS  
SOLAR  
ENERGY  
— SOCIETY —



**BIG SUN**  
SOLAR

