

Director's Message
September 8, 2009

Congratulations to all. We now have 29 members of the Tennessee Solar Energy Association.

Word is that the Chinese are going to flood this country with panels at \$1/watt very soon so the price including installation may be coming down. How long it will be down is anybody's guess, but if this price includes silicon wafer-based solar, then the price is way below the manufacturing cost. It is a great incentive to buy but a bad time for U.S. manufacturers that have to compete.

The time for solar in Tennessee is now and it is our job to get the word out to all. The best way to do this is by writing a letter to the editor bringing the public up to date on what is happening to the price of solar energy and the need for more help from our State legislature in getting sales tax relief for solar purchases. After all, the large power plants never pay sales tax. There are great opportunities for high-paying jobs and for new and existing businesses here in the state. There are rumors that a new panel plant may be in the works for East Tennessee, but right now this is only a rumor. If anyone has more information on this, please let me know.

Remember to mark your calendar for October 3 which is the National Solar Tour day and let us know of any events in your town.

-Steve Levy