

# SoPAE Conference '06

SUMMIT on PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

## NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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With its first annual Conference scheduled for October 6<sup>th</sup>, Summit on Practical Alternative Energy (**SoPAE**) will begin its long-range commitment to educate decision makers, architects, homeowners and consumers about currently available alternative energy sources for both residential and commercial structures. In doing so, it finds itself in concert with a growing movement away from California's increasing appetite for fossil fuels.

The event is also very much in keeping with Governor Schwarzenegger's Million Solar Roof campaign that aims to see many solar systems installed in California by the year 2017. The SoPAE committee takes note that it is helping extend the Governor's vision by including information about energy producing devices in addition to solar. Because SoPAE's goal is inline with the Governor's energy initiative, he has been invited to be the Conference Keynote Speaker.

The SoPAE Conference agenda will offer a plethora of information on the subject - solar panels, wind driven devices, fuel cells, solar concentration mechanisms, biomass and passive solar. Additionally, information on financing and incentive programs will be among the subjects being presented. Energy efficient LED lighting devices, in-line water heaters and a bibliography of pertinent information sources will be among the extra exhibits available at the conference. While the exhibits are included primarily for the benefit of conference attendees, they will be open to the public between the hours of 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM on that day.

Co-produced by Copper Mountain College (CMC), socially conscious Basin Wide Foundation and the environmentally aware Joshua Tree National Park, all three organizations have gathered the kind of talent and information that will result in a unique learning experience that combines presentations by equipment manufacturers and installers with related exhibits. In addition to showcasing a variety of energy producing equipment, SoPAE exhibits will also include a number of energy efficient products that embody leading edge technologies.

SoPAE co-chair Kindred Murillo – CMC Chief Business Officer - has noted that the major utilization of solar panels has shifted from central European countries back into the Southern California area - a move that signals two important things. 1) an indication that "we" are getting serious about alternatives to the use of fossil fuels and 2), the fact that technological advances are making the return on investment

(ROI) on alternative energy sources increasingly attractive. "ROIs have decreased significantly from about 25 years just a few years ago to about 7 to 9 years today." notes Murillo. She goes on to say that "Lending institutions are beginning to give thought to alternative energy sources by factoring due consideration into their financing products both for new buildings and for structural improvements - private and commercial."

Murillo also notes that two recent actions taken by the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) are of importance to consumers. One is its California Solar initiative that will be providing \$2.9 billion in incentives between 2007 and 2017. The other is its adoption of performance-based incentives that are to become effective in January of 2007.

"Things are changing at such a rapid rate!" declares Bob Dockendorff - Murillo's co-chair and a Director with the Basin Wide Foundation. "It has become the goal of SoPAE to keep consumers informed of these rapidly changing technologies year by year until such time as our conferences seem to be no longer necessary."

As one observer noted, "if I have some thousands of dollars to spend on an alternative energy project, I now know where to go to find out how that money can best be used."

For additional information about this important and timely event, visit the SoPAE web site at [www.sopae.org](http://www.sopae.org). For information about an institutional group registration rate for the Conference, call Ms. Jennifer Lukus at (760) 366-3791, extension 5308.

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