

# Solar America Board for Codes and Standards (Solar ABCs)

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# Solar ABCs

The Department of Energy has supported the work of many experts to develop, implement, and train others in codes and standards for solar energy.

In 2007, the DOE created the SOLAR ABCs to consolidate much of that support into one, cohesive group with the following goals and objectives:

- **Identifying** needs and prioritizing efforts to meet them (Gap Analysis)
- **Building** consensus on codes and standards recommendations
- **Enabling** formal collaboration and communication between experts from lab, industry, government
- **Improving** communication to stakeholders of issues and concerns
- **Improving** communication from stakeholders to code-making bodies
- **Reporting** code-related concerns/activities to DOE
- **Creating** a central location for documents, information, updates



# Solar ABCs - Steering Committee

- **Arizona State University**, Mani Tamizh-Mani
- **BEW Engineering**, Chuck Whitaker
- **Brooks Engineering**, Bill Brooks
- **Department of Energy**, Kevin Lynn
- **Florida Solar Energy Center**, Gobind Atmaram
- **Interstate Renewable Energy Council**, Jane Weissman
- **National Renewable Energy Laboratory**, Tom Basso, Mike Coddington
- **New Mexico State University**, John Wiles, Andrew Rosenthal
- **North Carolina Solar Center**, Keith McAllister
- **PowerMark**, John Wohlgemuth
- **Sandia National Laboratories**, Ward Bower
- **Sunset Technologies**, Howard Barikmo
- **Underwriters Laboratories**, Tim Zgonena, Evelyn Butler

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# Solar ABCs

## Advisory Committee

- **Jim Baak**, Vote Solar (also representing Solar Electric Power Association)
- **Suzanne Borek**, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
- **Nick Chaset** (Chair), California Public Utilities Commission
- **Adam Detrick**, SunPower Corp.
- **Mark Dougherty**, Long Island Power Authority
- **Smita Gupta**, California Energy Commission
- **Edwin Iracki**, DuPont
- **Tom McCalmont**, ReGrid Power
- **Rhone Resch**, Solar Energy Industries Association
- **Peter Varadi**, Consultant
- **Donald Warfield**, BP Solar



# Solar America Board for Codes and Standards

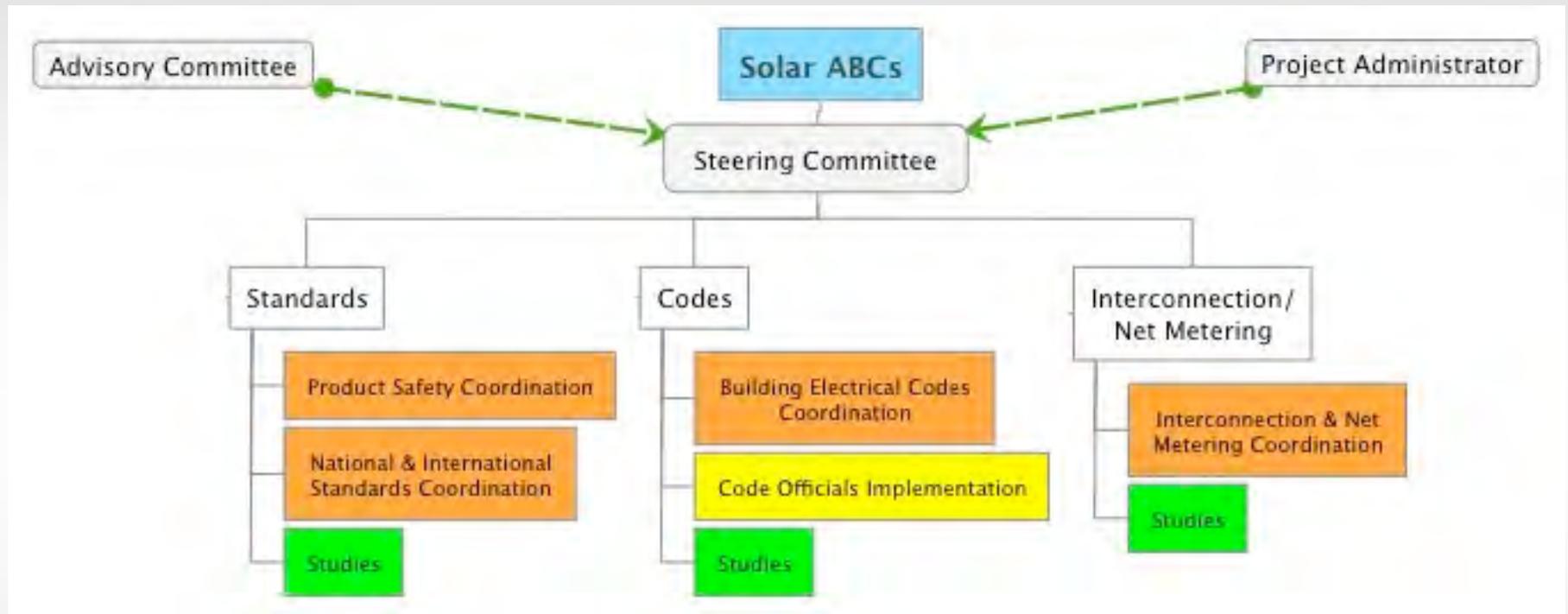
## Project and Plans

Larry Sherwood

Project Administrator



# Solar ABCs



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## Study Reports Completed

- *Comparison of the Four Leading Small Generator Interconnection Procedures*
- *Utility External Disconnect Switch: Practical, Legal, and Technical Reasons to Eliminate the Requirement*
- *A Comprehensive Review of Solar Access Law in the United State: Suggested Standards for a Model Statute and Ordinance*



# Solar ABCs

## Study Reports Under Development

- *Impact of Advanced Metering Infrastructure on Small Distributed Generation*
- *Expedited Permitting for PV Systems*
- *High Wind Loads and Model Codes for PV Arrays*
- *Crystalline Silicon Terrestrial Photovoltaic Cells*
  - *Supply Chain Prequalification Specification*
- *Begin Study on Module Nameplate Ratings*



# Standard and Code Development

- *National Electrical Code®*
- International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Standards
- National Standards (IEEE and ASTM)
- Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Standards



# Implementation

- Communication about reports
- Training
- Fire Safety



# Gap Analysis: High Priority Topics

- Standardization of module power rating
- System Energy Performance Standard
- Standards to certify the accuracy of inverter meters
- Accelerated life testing for safety, reliability and durability of modules and the components used in modules
- PV Module frame grounding issues
- Roof-top PV module-specific fire research, testing and ratings systems
- National Fire Safety Guidelines for roof-top PV systems
- Revise building codes to address PV specifically
- Review and suggest updates to FERC interconnection screens
- Rate Impact of Net Metering.



# Opportunities for Involvement

- Stakeholder Meetings
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Comment on draft Reports and other documents

[www.solarabcs.org](http://www.solarabcs.org)



# For more information

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