



Solar Sebastopol

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 18, 2005

**Solar Sebastopol Speaker Series* – May 26
The Future of Solar PV and What's in it for You**

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David Hochschild of VoteSolar.org will be the keynote speaker at Solar Sebastopol's May 26 educational event at the Sebastopol Masonic Lodge. Hochschild, Director of Policy for the Vote Solar Initiative, will give a presentation on the largest solar energy legislation ever introduced in the United States - the California Million Solar Roofs bill (SB1) and what its passage could mean for the future of solar energy and the fight against global warming.

After working on the team that put together the San Francisco solar bond, David left his job in the San Francisco Mayor's Office in August 2001 and has now co-founded the Vote Solar Initiative. The Vote Solar Initiative's mission is to promote a national transition to clean energy by empowering city governments to implement large-scale, cost-effective solar projects. David will speak about the future of Solar Photovoltaics (PV) and why it is so critical that we do it now. He will update us on the pending state legislation that will put California at the forefront of solar energy production. A panel of local homeowners and businesses who have installed solar PV will be on hand to talk about their experience of installing and living with solar energy.

Solar Sebastopol business members will have information tables and people to answer your questions about installing solar PV on your home or business. Members include: Cooperative Community Energy, Solar Works, Alternative Power Systems, Affinity Energy, North Coast Solar Resources, Sebastopol Heat & Cool, and Harmony Farm Supply.

The Climate Protection Campaign, a non-profit working with local municipalities, businesses, and schools to reduce greenhouse gas emissions causing climate change, will also have an information table. The Campaign's mission is to create a positive future for our children by inspiring action in response to the climate crisis.

The Sonoma County Transportation & Land-use Coalition booth will explain how transportation in the North Bay can become more energy efficient by strengthening transit alternatives and shifting land use practices to encourage more walking and bicycling, thereby reducing dependence on the automobile.

Event Details:

Solar Sebastopol Speaker Series

Thursday, May 26, 7:00 p.m.

Masonic Lodge, 373 N. Main Street, Sebastopol
Admission Free, donations accepted to help cover costs.

About Solar Sebastopol

Solar Sebastopol is a local first-of-its-kind program to encourage more solar energy on residential, business, and public properties in Sebastopol. Our goal is to install 1 megawatt of solar power production by year-end 2005. That's equivalent to solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on about 500 average-size homes.

We have a window of opportunity to drastically cut the out-of-pocket costs of each solar electric system installation.

As of April 1, 2005, Sebastopol has added 213,600 watts (213.6 kW) of solar power within city limits, or just over 20% of the 1 megawatt (1,000 kW) goal. You can help us reach the goal! Come to the event on May 26 to find out how.

For more information about Solar Sebastopol, visit www.solarsebastopol.com or call (707) 823-1153.

* Future events will include a festival at the Sebastopol Farm Market on July 17 and a Speaker event with Richard Heinberg on Aug. 9 at the Sebastopol Vets.