



Solar Sebastopol

World Famous Solar Designer to Speak in Sebastopol October 21, 2005

Solar Sebastopol will be sponsoring **Steven Strong**, internationally renowned solar architect and designer, at the Sebastopol Community Center on Friday night, **October 21**, 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. The event is part of Solar Sebastopol's ongoing speaker series. To encourage attendance, no admission fee will be required, but a \$5 donation is suggested to help cover costs.

Steven will present a highly visual world overview of Solar Electric Architecture using the best-built examples of solar-powered residences and commercial-scale buildings from Europe, Japan and the US. These early PV-powered buildings provide a window into the coming new era of environmentally responsive, energy-producing buildings where this elegant, life-affirming technology will become commonplace as an integral part of the built environment.

Strong's presentation, Sunlight is Life – The Path to a Sustainable Future, weaves technology, politics and social policy together with humor and compelling graphics to clearly demonstrate that the end of the era of cheap oil is upon us, that renewable energy is ready here and now and, to help define the path to a sustainable future in the post-petroleum world.

In the spring of 1999, TIME magazine named Strong an 'Environmental Hero of the Planet'. In the spring of 2001, the American Solar Energy Society honored him with its Charles Greeley Abbot award - for lifetime achievement in advancing solar energy. In the spring of 2003, the Audubon Society named him its 'Environmental Entrepreneur of the Year'.

In the summer of 2002, Steven designed and oversaw the installation of three solar energy systems at the White House in Washington, DC. He has recently completed the design and oversaw the installation of a new 'solar skin' for the US Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

According to Strong, "The last two decades have brought significant changes to the design profession. In the wake of traumatic escalations in energy prices, shortages, embargoes and war along with heightened concerns over pollution, environmental degradation, climate change and resource depletion, awareness of the environmental impact of our work as design professionals has dramatically increased.

The built environment is responsible for a large percentage of energy consumption and architects are responsible for a large percentage of the built environment.

Architects and engineers with vision have come to understand it is no longer the goal of good design to simply create a building that's aesthetically pleasing - buildings must be environmentally

responsive as well. Rather than merely using a little less non-renewable fuels and creating less pollution, buildings of the 21st century will rely on renewable resources to produce some and, eventually, all of their own energy.

One of the most promising renewable energy technologies is photovoltaics. Photovoltaics (PV) is a truly elegant means of producing electricity on site, directly from the sun, without concern for energy supply or environmental harm. These solid-state devices simply make electricity out of sunlight, silently with no maintenance, no pollution and no depletion of materials.

There is a growing consensus that distributed photovoltaic systems that provide electricity at the point of use will be the first to reach widespread commercialization. Chief among these distributed applications are PV power systems for individual buildings.”

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 2006. 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 July 15, 2005, Sebastopol has added 260,000 watts (260 kW) of solar power within city limits, or just over 25% of the 1 megawatt (1,000 kW) goal. You can help us reach the goal! Come to the event on October 21 to get inspired and find out how.

Visit the Solar Sebastopol web site for more details and Steven Strong’s bio:
www.solarsebastopol.com.

To learn more about **Steven Strong, President of Solar Design Associates, Inc.**, visit his web site at: www.solardesign.com.

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