



# **Ashland Area Council for Economic Development**

## **Press Release**

---

### **Solar Summit scheduled for September 17, 2009**

**Ashland, Ohio September 2, 2009** - Ashland Area Council for Economic Development (AACED) announces Solar Summit to be held on Thursday, September 17, 2009 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Samaritan on Main (663 East Main Street, Ashland, Ohio 44805). Agenda items include:

#### **State Incentives & Energy Goals:**

Rebecca Gray, Ohio Department of Development

#### **Solar Energy Development—Challenges and Opportunities, Solar Improvement Districts:**

Dale Arnold, Director Energy Services, Ohio Farm Bureau

#### **Federal Level Incentives**

Speaker TBD

#### **Training Issues for Installers**

Speaker TBD

AACED is investigating the advanced energy sector's potential for job creation and increased disposable income throughout our county. We view this as part of a comprehensive effort to explore opportunities in the emerging green economy, as recommended by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC)

IEDC is encouraging economic development agencies to champion broad-based initiatives, with strategies ranging from energy efficiency that reduces costs and puts money in citizens' pockets to creating incentives and programs for local green-collar job creation.

This is an area where our office has been active. We held a seminar with Great Lakes Wind earlier this year, which led to several local manufacturing company visits and to one business lead.

We are now planning this solar seminar to discuss the current incentives and programs related to solar thermal and solar photovoltaic installation. We will

focus on incentives for residents and businesses to install solar panels or solar thermal systems, as well as the Solar Improvement District program that was just implemented at the State level.

The training and certification requirements for installers will also be discussed. The overall goal of the seminar is to show the vision of a program to encourage local solar energy use, create jobs and become a leader in solar installation certification.

A subsequent seminar on supply-chain opportunities within the solar thermal and solar photovoltaic industry will be scheduled soon.

Please contact Nikki McConnell, at 419-289-3200 for additional information.