



**Contact: Tom Kelly (KyotoUSA): (510) 684-6484**

**Press Event: Wednesday, November 9 (11:30 a.m.) at SunPower Corporation  
1414 Harbour Way South, Richmond, California**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 7, 2011

## **Solar Master Plans Pave the Way for Renewable Energy Systems at East Bay School Districts**

*Local public-private partnership develops comprehensive Solar Master Plans for Berkeley, Oakland, and West Contra Costa Unified School Districts.*

**Berkeley, California** – In April 2009, the U.S. Department of Energy awarded a Solar America Showcase grant to the Sequoia Foundation and Berkeley based KyotoUSA to develop Solar Master Plans for Berkeley, Oakland, and West Contra Costa Unified School Districts. The Solar America Showcase technical assistance grant was intended to support companies and local government entities that are “highly committed” to adopt solar technology and to accelerate the installation of photovoltaic (PV) panels across the country.

The Solar Master Plans were developed in a partnership that was led by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and KyotoUSA, and included the three school districts, SunPower Corporation, Richmond, and Moore Iacofano Goltsman, Inc. a Berkeley consulting firm.

The Solar Master Plans provide detailed information on each district’s energy consumption and cost, a comprehensive evaluation of the PV potential for all schools and facilities, and specific information on all aspects of a large scale PV transaction, including energy benchmarking, site selection, structural evaluation, financing, solar technology, procurement, and tariffs.

The three school districts consume approximately 47 million kWh of electricity annually at a cost of \$7.6 million. The school districts have the capacity to generate approximately 51 million kWh annually if they installed the full 38 MW for which they have capacity. Current regulations do not encourage property owners to oversize their PV systems, so these school districts are limited to ~20 MW of solar that would produce approximately 28 million kWh annually with a value of about \$5.3 million. The districts would also avoid about 7,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases and generate approximately 27,000 Renewable Energy Credits each year.

State Senator Loni Hancock and Assemblymember Nancy Skinner will be on hand to congratulate the districts. Craig Cheslog, Principal Advisor to Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, will discuss the California Department of Education’s *Schools of the Future Initiative*, which encourages more energy conservation, and the installation of renewable energy projects in California’s public schools.

“School districts spend a significant amount of money each year on energy,” said KyotoUSA’s Tom Kelly, “and that cost is growing every year. School districts now understand that they can achieve big savings through conservation and efficiency. They are also beginning to see that renewable energy systems play an important role in reducing costs, providing educational opportunities for their students, and contributing to the effort to fight climate change. Installing renewable energy systems is no longer out of reach. The Solar Master Plans show them how to get there.”

“The Solar Master Plan for Berkeley Unified School District enabled the district to include a request from Berkeley residents of \$6.4 million in our 2010 Measure I construction bond measure,” said William Huyett, Superintendent at BUSD. “Those funds will allow us to add another 700 kW of solar to the 180 kW we’ve already installed. The savings we achieve by reducing our electricity costs directly reflect cuts that we have not had to make. And the kids see that we are doing our part to reduce our carbon footprint, as solar on a school building obviously provides numerous learning opportunities.”

Visit the HELiOS Project website at [www.heliosproject.org](http://www.heliosproject.org) and see BUSD’s Solar Master Plan.

Contact Tom Kelly at (510) 684-6484 for additional information on the November 9 event or the Solar Master Plans.

SunPower designs, manufactures and delivers high-performance solar electric systems worldwide for residential, commercial and utility-scale power plant customers.

**Solar Schools Assessment and Implementation Project**  
**SOLAR MASTER PLANS - LAUNCH AND PHASE II**

November 9, 2011  
11:30 am to 1:00 pm

SunPower Corporation  
1414 Harbour Way South  
Richmond, CA 94804

# **A G E N D A**

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| 11:30 am | <b>I. Welcome and Agenda Overview<br/>(Bill Kelly, SunPower Corp., Tom Kelly, KyotoUSA)</b> |
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|  | <b>II. Remarks from Elected Officials<br/>(Senator Loni Hancock, Assemblymember Nancy Skinner, Mayor Gayle McLaughlin)</b>  |
|  | <b>III. Solar America Showcase<br/>(Alicen Kandt, NREL)</b>   |
|  | <b>IV. “Schools of the Future” Initiative<br/>(Craig Cheslog, Principal Advisor to State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson)</b>  |
|  | <b>V. Overview of the Solar Master Plans (Tom Kelly)</b>  |
|  | <b>VI. Solar Master Plans: School District Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Bill Huyett, Superintendent, Berkeley Unified School District</b></li><li>• <b>Dr. Bruce Harter, Superintendent, West Contra Costa Unified School District</b></li><li>• <b>Timothy White, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities, Planning and Management, Oakland Unified School District</b></li></ul> |
|  | <b>VII. Solar Master Plans: Phase II (Tom Kelly)</b>  |
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| 1:00 pm | <i>Lunch and tour</i> |
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