

# SMUD News Release

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

News Media Services

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## **SMUD provides solar installation training**

*Helps region's contractors meet expected boom in solar panel installations*

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) is providing advanced training for local contractors to design and install grid-connected solar photovoltaic (PV) systems. About 120 electricians, electrical contractors, solar contractors, building contractors, inspectors, engineers and solar installers took part in the first training sessions sponsored by SMUD in March. More sessions are being planned.

SMUD sponsored the training session to establish more local qualified solar contractors to meet an expected rise in demand for solar electric systems on homes and other buildings in the coming years. Last year, the governor signed Senate Bill 1, under which SMUD's goal is to install 125 MW of solar by 2015. Developing a strong, local PV contractor base is critical if SMUD is to reach its goal.

The training was held at SMUD's Hedge facility in the Rosemont area over three days. The training covered design and installation of PV systems in new construction and retrofitted applications ranging from small residential rooftop arrays to large commercial systems. Classes dealt with building code compliance, design challenges and battery- and non-battery-based systems. Emphasis was placed on ensuring that a finished installation lives up to its 20 to 30-year life expectancy.

The training sessions were presented by Brooks Engineering, a Bay Area-based firm that's trained more than 3,000 installers and 2,000 inspectors in California and elsewhere. Brooks is actively involved in developing PV codes and standards in the solar industry.

SMUD has been a leader in developing solar technology for more than 20 years. For more information on upcoming PV training sessions or about SMUD's solar programs, visit [www.smud.org](http://www.smud.org).

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## 2-2-2-2 SMUD provides solar installation training



**Suggested photo caption:** Bill Brooks of Brooks Engineering teaches contractors how to design and install solar electric installations at the SMUD training facility in the Rosemont area. SMUD sponsored the 3-day class to establish more local qualified solar installers to meet growing demand. SMUD has been a leader in solar for more than two decades. In recent years, SMUD has been working to develop local businesses to sell, install and maintain solar arrays.

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