



Contact:
Gordian Raacke 516-313-6611

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For Immediate Release

OYSTER BAY BUILDINGS FEATURED on NATIONAL SOLAR TOUR

Seven solar-powered buildings in the Town of Oyster Bay and City of Glen Cove will be open to the public for free visits on Saturday, October 3rd from 10 AM to 4 PM as part of the National Solar Tour & Green Buildings Open House on Long Island. Tour visitors can learn about solar and other forms of clean energy directly from the people in their community, watch electric meters run backwards, and see the actual savings on utility bills.

These open houses are part of an island-wide tour of about 90 sites that use solar energy or other green building features. The National Solar Tour is organized on Long Island by the non-profit Renewable Energy Long Island (RELI) and by the American Solar Energy Society at the national level. Last year's tour attracted 140,000 visitors nationwide and has been billed as the largest public renewable energy education event in the world.

One home available to tour, the Vollmer residence in Sea Cliff, features a 4.8 kW solar electric system which has reduced the owners' electric bill significantly. Another site, the engineering firm T.M. Bier & Associates in Glen Cove, installed a large (20 kW) solar electric system. Other sites on the Tour within the Town of Oyster Bay include a church Massapequa, NYIT in Old Westbury, and homes in Massapequa, Massapequa Park, Sea Cliff, Syosset, Farmingdale, and Glen Cove.

"My solar system has been great for the environment and great for my finances. It generates almost half of my household's electrical usage and has saved me about \$1,400 per year in utility bills", said Peter Vollmer. "In the midst of a recession when most financial investments have tanked, my investment in solar is not only generating electricity, but a double digit return on my out-of-pocket cost to purchase the system. It will pay for itself in 6 years and last for 40 years"

LIPA currently offers substantial, upfront cash rebates (up to \$35,000) for the installation of solar electric systems. Combined with increased federal income tax credits and state tax credits, these incentives can reduce the cost by 2/3.

"The Solar Tour is really the best way to see first-hand what solar is all about and to talk directly to the owners to find out whether solar energy will work for you", said Gordian Raacke, Executive Director of Renewable Energy Long Island (RELI).

"The tour provides a unique opportunity to learn about the benefits of going solar," said LIPA President and CEO Kevin S. Law. "LIPA's nationally-recognized *Solar Pioneer and Entrepreneur Program* continues to help our customers reduce energy consumption and lower electric bills, diversify Long Island's energy portfolio, strengthen the local economy, and to transform the solar photovoltaic marketplace to help reduce our dependency on costly fossil fuels."

Visitors are encouraged to first visit one of the central tour hubs where they can pick up materials and participate in educational activities. The Massapequa Community Church and NYIT campus in Old Westbury are the central hub location for Oyster Bay.

The self-guided tour is free of charge but visitors will need to obtain a free Visitors Pass from RELI. Every visitor will receive a free copy of the Long Island GreenGuide, a 64-page publication with handy information and a green business directory. The Visitors Pass and more information on the tour and clean energy technologies & incentives are available at RenewableEnergyLongIsland.org or by calling (631) 329-8888.

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PHOTOS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD:

Vollmer residence (Sea Cliff): <http://ishines.org/solarregistry/propertyimages/1217970509.jpg>

T.M. Bier & Associates Building (Glen Cove): <http://sunshineisfree.org/solarregistry/propertyimages/1239057815.JPG>

To arrange pre-tour interviews and for location information, call the RELI Media Line at 516-313-6611.