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SEI 2005 Annual Report

Renewable Energy Education For A Sustainable Future



Need for Renewable Energy Education

SEI provides information, education and training to people who want to shape a sustainable future.

A sustainable future requires an investment of knowledge and skills in the people who will shape that future. The renewable energies of sun, wind and water are clean and abundant, yet underutilized resources. Renewable energy technologies are mature, but few are skilled in their use. Decision-makers need information to make appropriate choices with confidence. Technicians need skills and experience to service the technologies. End-users must learn how to operate and maintain self-reliant renewable energy systems.

Founded in 1980, SEI serves as a link between people & renewable energy resources.



How-To & Hands-On

- SEI uses a how-to/hands-on approach with commercial products and field installations.
- Since 1991, over 3800 people from all 50 states and 55 countries have attended SEI's REEP Program.
- The 2005 REEP Program offered 37 hands-on workshops and seven online courses.
- 865 students attended REEP 2005, including 57 international students.

SEI's Five Programs

- Renewable Energy Education Program (REEP)
- Solar in the Schools (SIS)
- INVEST
- Native American Program
- Scholarship Program

Solar Energy International is an educational non-profit Colorado corporation. SEI is recognized by the IRS as a tax-exempt charitable organization under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Solar Energy International is a non-profit educational organization and an Equal Opportunity Institution and Employer. SEI is not affiliated with any manufacturer, dealer, distributor, or any other renewable energy commercial enterprise.

SOLAR ENERGY INTERNATIONAL

P.O. Box 715 • Carbondale, CO 81623 • tel: 970.963.8855 fax: 970.963.8866
e-mail: sei@solarenergy.org • www.solarenergy.org

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 Kathy Fontaine
 Matthew Harris
 Soozie Lindbloom
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 Khanti Munro
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 Laurie Stone
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Renewable Energy Education Program

SEI's Renewable Energy Education Program (REEP) teaches the practical use of solar, wind and water power. Our workshops give individuals the knowledge and skills to design, install and maintain renewable energy systems and to build state-of-the-art solar homes that are efficient, practical and earth-friendly.

2005 REEP Workshops

- Advanced Photovoltaics
- Biodiesel Fuel
- Carpentry Skills for Women
- Designing & Building Natural Homes
- Homebuilt Wind Generators
- Introduction to Renewable Energy
- Intro to Straw Bale Construction
- Micro-Hydro Power
- PV Design & Installation
- PV Design Online
- PV Industry Week
- RE for the Developing World
- RE for the Developing World - Hands-On
- Solar & Radiant Heating Systems
- Solar Home Principles
- Solar Home Design Online
- Solar Hot Water
- Solar Water Pumping
- Successful Solar Businesses
- Utility Interactive PV Systems
- Women's PV Design & Installation

REEP Projects: SEI's Hands-on, How-to Experiences

Alumni of SEI's 2005 REEP Program gained hands-on, how-to experience on a total of 15 installations. REEP projects represent practical applications of the latest commercial technologies and products. Each installation remains an operational system, providing clean renewable energy for businesses, institutions, ranches, homes and communities. Future participants will visit and learn from these projects before meeting their own installation challenges.

Guest Instructors & Industry Representatives

SEI instructors are leaders in their fields, bringing the most up-to-date information in renewable energy technologies. In 2005, over 100 guest instructors and industry representatives presented in our workshops.

Workshops Were Offered in 16 Locations

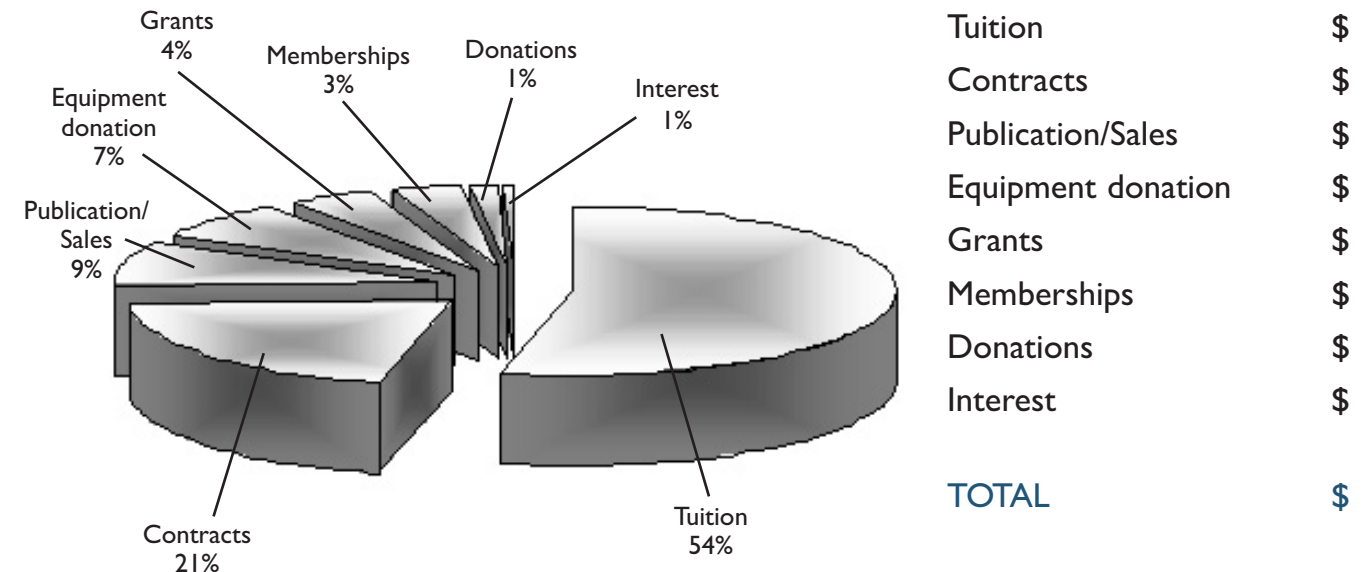
- Austin, Texas
- Carbondale, Colorado
- Costa Rica
- Grass Valley, California
- Honolulu, Hawaii
- Lincroft, New Jersey
- Nicaragua
- Olivebridge, New York
- Paonia, Colorado
- Portland, Oregon
- Reno, Nevada
- Salem, Oregon
- Salt Lake City, Utah
- San Diego, California
- San Francisco, California
- San Juan Islands, Washington

"The extraction, conversion, and utilization of energy is the single largest component of air and water pollution, as well as emissions causing the change of our global climate." --Christine A. Ervin, Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, DOE, 1997

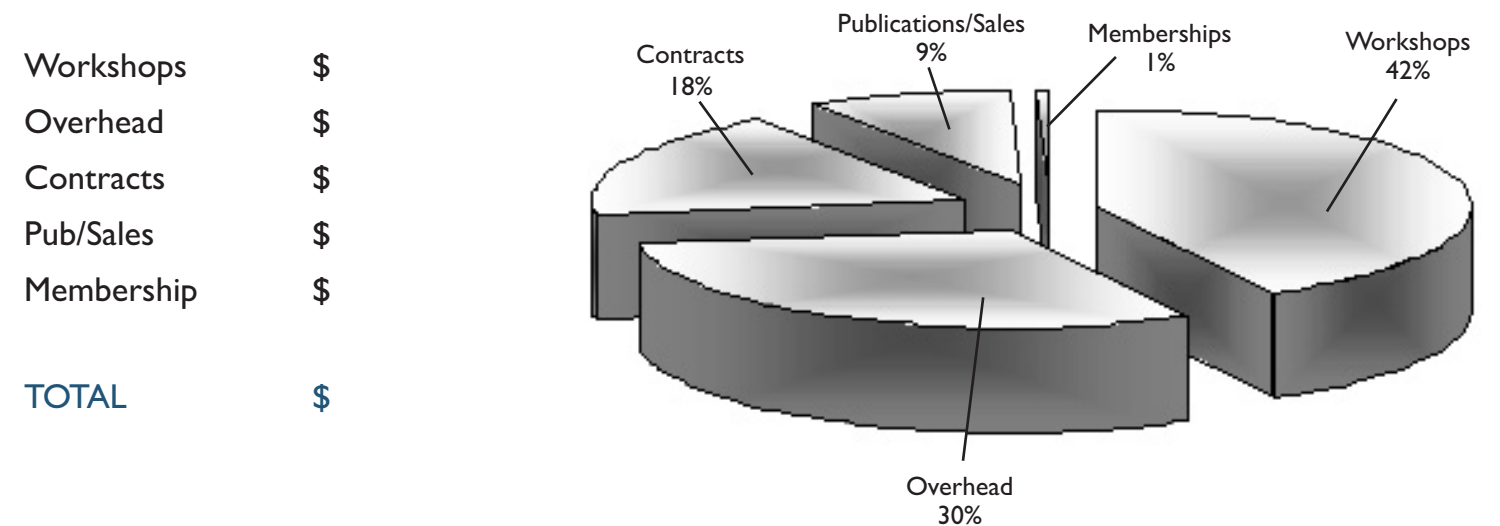


Financial Report Summary 2005

INCOME



EXPENSES



"I'd put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a source of power! I hope we don't have to wait 'til oil and coal run out before we tackle that." -- Thomas Alva Edison

SEI 2005 Charitable Programs

SEI provided training & technical assistance to groups worldwide!

INVEST Program

SEI offers alumni an opportunity to participate in INVEST, International Volunteers in Environmentally Sustainable Technologies. SEI alumni can apply to volunteer overseas with one of our partner organizations to help bring renewable energy technologies to communities in the

developing world. Volunteers install PV systems on rural health centers, teach rural farmers about solar water pumping, install micro-hydro and wind systems to power rural communities, or help build sustainable houses. All this while meeting new people and being introduced to new cultures!

"I just wanted to thank you for your generous support of my volunteer activities here in Thailand. Thank you as well to INVEST for providing the opportunity and to all of SEI for a first rate renewable energy education."

-- Andrew Pascale
SEI INVEST Volunteer



INVEST volunteer, Andrew Pascale, with Thai solar technicians. In 2005, INVEST volunteers traveled to Thailand, the Philippines, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica.



A PV system is installed in the Philippines.

Scholarship Program

Traveling to the United States has become increasingly hard for our international students, due to visa requirements and the cost of airfare. We try to offset these costs to eligible developing country residents by offering tuition scholarships.

People from over 50 countries have attended SEI workshops thanks to scholarships supported by our members. SEI also offers partial tuition scholarships to low-income participants from the United States and other industrialized nations.



Maina Stanley Gathai installs a solar PV system in an SEI workshop.

"The generous scholarship I was offered exposed me to the world of solar, technical assistance, technology in water pumping with DC pumps, and shaped me to a sustainable future as a technician of Renewable Energy."

-- Maina Stanley Gathai,
Electrician at the Jane Goodall Chimpanzee Sanctuary, Kenya

Scholarship Recipients

In 2005 SEI offered 31 full and partial scholarships. Scholarship recipients included:

- ❖ A professor from the University of Guyana, South America who is now teaching his students about renewable energy technologies.
- ❖ Local high school students and a teacher to attend our biodiesel workshop. They have since established a biodiesel program at their school.
- ❖ Two local students, a rancher and a carpenter who are pursuing their own solar installation business.

SEI 2005 Charitable Programs

SEI provided training and technical assistance to groups worldwide

Solar In The Schools

SEI's Solar In the Schools program (SIS) targets grades K - 12 and focuses on experiential learning of energy concepts and issues. The goal is to have students understand energy as it relates to all living things on the planet. SIS emphasizes critical

thinking skills by exploring energy choices, costs, and solutions within individual communities. In 2005, SEI presented in many different classrooms throughout Colorado teaching over 800 students about renewable energy.

2005 Projects

SEI's Solar in the Schools program presented in 13 schools throughout Colorado, and taught 891 students with hands-on projects including making biodiesel, constructing solar ovens, and implementing renewable energy curriculum in their classrooms.

SEI partnered with the Crested Butte Community School and the Crested Butte Office for Resource Efficiency for a week of k-12 renewable energy education, a teacher training, and the completion of a student installed 1.55 kW Photovoltaic system. The project culminated with a Solar Fair for the entire Crested Butte community.



Crested Butte students learn about solar electricity.

"Thank you so much for spending your day to share your expertise with my 7th graders. You have made a lasting impression on them that will influence their decisions for a lifetime. In these times when . . . precious resources are squandered, it gives me hope to work with you and SEI. Thank you for bringing that message of hope to my students."

-- Joyce Wizer, Middle School teacher,
Rifle, Colorado

Native American Program

SEI works with Native Americans to help them satisfy their energy and housing needs with renewable energy and natural building. SEI works with Native American NGOs and

non-profit organizations and has trained people from the Western Shoshone, Lakota Sioux, Yurok, Zuni, Hopi, and Chippewa Nations.

2005 Projects

In coordination with Honor the Earth and the Western Shoshone Defense Project, SEI trained over 20 Native Americans in PV installation. The participants installed a PV system to power the ranch home of Mary and Carrie Dann, two Western Shoshone grandmothers. The training was the first step in promoting locally run energy systems and economic development for Native communities.

SEI worked with Red Feather Development Group and Turtle Mountain Community College, North Dakota, to construct an Environmental Research Center on the tribal college's 100-acre Anishanaube Wellness Center. Tribal college students and staff worked together to design a load-bearing straw bale building with a range of sustainable components.

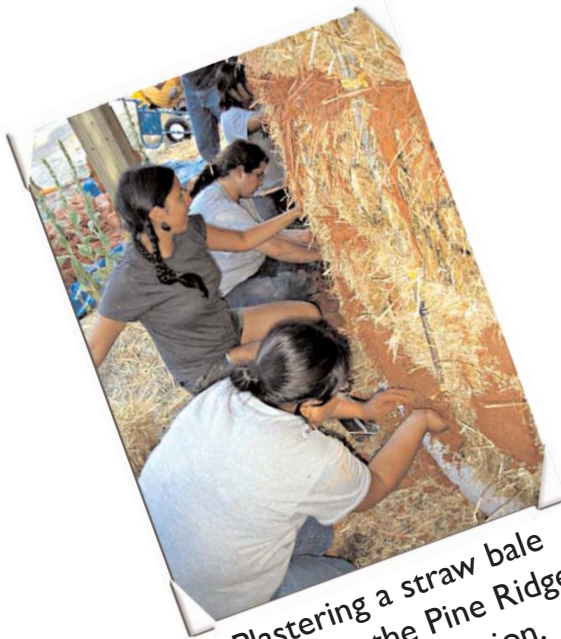


PV installation and training with the Western Shoshone

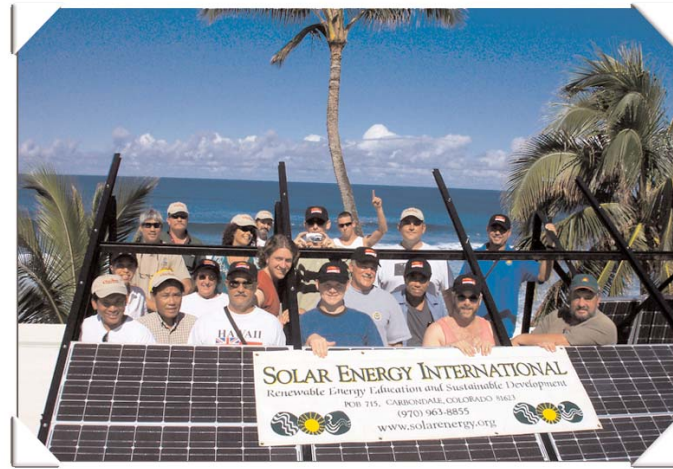
"Migwetch (thank you) SEI for all your work in making the Western Shoshone solar project a reality. We look forward to working together in the future."

-- Winona LaDuke, Honor the Earth

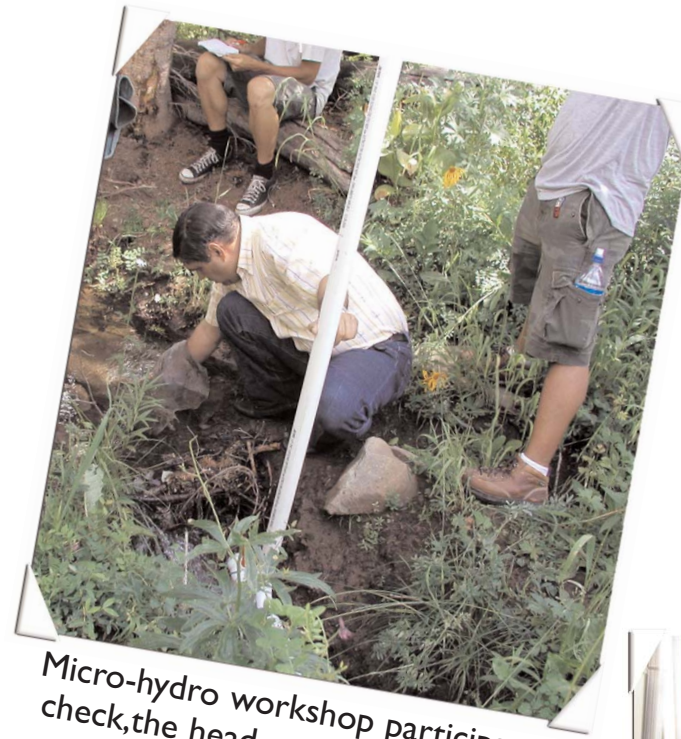
A Look at 2005 in Photos!



Plastering a straw bale house on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation.



Hawaii PV Design & Installation workshop participants show off their PV installation.



Micro-hydro workshop participants check the head and flow of a river.



SEI workshop participants install a PV system in San Francisco.



School children help install a solar electric system as part of SEI's Solar in the Schools program.



SEI's "Grease Queen" shows high school students the biodesiesel processor.



SEI Invest volunteer Andrew Pascale, teaches a solar electric class in Thailand.



Building a solar battery charger in Nicaragua in the RE for Developing World workshop



A young girl checks out a solar panel at the Crested Butte Solar Fair courtesy of SEI's Solar in the Schools Program.

Building a straw bale shed in the Intro to Straw Bale workshop



Participants in the Home Built Wind Generator workshop in Costa Rica with the wind generator they built

