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621 Members < \$100

SEI 2008 Annual Report

Renewable Energy Education for a Sustainable Future



SEI's Mission

Solar Energy International (SEI) was founded in 1991 as a non-profit educational organization to help others to use renewable energy resources and sustainable building technologies through education and technical assistance.

Outreach Programs

- Solar In the Schools (SIS)
- INVEST
- Native American Program
- International Trainings
- 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.

Renewable Energy Education Program

- In 18 years, over 9,400 people from all 50 states and 67 countries have attended SEI's REEP Program.
- In 2008 SEI offered 52 handson workshops and twelve online courses.
- 2,598 participants attended workshops and online courses in 2008, including 139 international students.



SOLAR ENERGY INTERNATIONAL

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Solar Energy International is a nonprofit educational organization and an Equal Opportunity Institution and Employer. SEI is independent from any manufacturer, dealer, distributor, or any other renewable energy commercial enterprise.

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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 natural homes that are efficient, practical and earth-friendly.

2008 REEP Workshops

- Advanced Photovoltaics
- Advanced PV Online
- Appropriate Technology for the Developing World
- · Biodiesel Fuel
- Building for the Future
- Building for the Future Online
- Designing & Building Natural Homes
- Ecology, Permaculture & RE
- Grid-Tied PV
- Introduction to Renewable Energy
- Micro-Hydro Power
- PV Design & Installation
- PV Design Online

- PV Lab Week
- RE for the Developing World
- RE for the DW Hands-On
- Renewable Energy for Educators
- Residential Wind Power
- · Solar & Radiant Heating Systems
- Solar Hot Water
- Solar Industry Seminar
- Solar Water Pumping
- Straw Bale Construction & Natural
- Successful Solar Businesses
- Women's PV Design & Installation

SEI's Hands-on Training

Alumni of SEI's 2008 REEP Program gained hands-on experience in installations and lab exercises. REEP projects represent practical applications of the latest commercial technologies and products in PV, wind, solar thermal, micro-hydro, and sustainable building.

Guest Instructors & Industry Representatives

SEI instructors are leaders in their fields, offering the most up-to-date information in renewable energy technologies. In 2008, over 100 guest instructors and industry representatives presented in our workshops.

Workshops Were Offered in 20 Locations

- Austin, Texas
- Bahia de Caraquez, Ecuador Olivebridge, New York
- Carbondale, Colorado
- Chiapas, Mexico
- Dúrika, Costa Rica
- East Charleston, Vermont
- Fontana, California
- Fort Collins, Colorado
- · Honolulu, Hawaii
- Manteca, California

- · Mastatal, Costa Rica
- · Paonia, Colorado
- Pittsboro, North Carolina
- · Salt Lake City, Utah
- · San Diego, California
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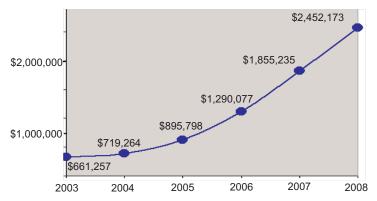
Financial Report Summary 2008

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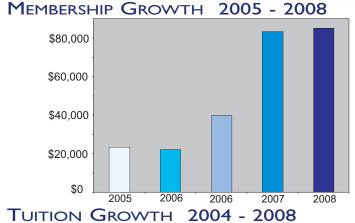
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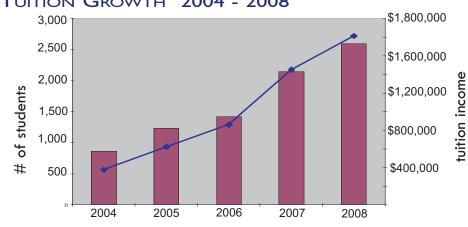
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INCOME

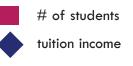












SEI 2008 Outreach Programs

SEI provided training and technical assistance to groups worldwide.

Scholarship Program

Traveling to the United States has become increasingly hard for our international students, due to visa requirements and the cost of travel. We try to offset these costs for eligible developing country residents by offering tuition scholarships. People from over 60 countries have attended SEI workshops, many 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.

In 2008 SEI offered 77 full and partial scholarships.

Cat working on Brad Pitt's "Make It Right" PV project in the Lower 9th Ward of New Orleans. ▶

"Soon after the SEI Women's PV workshop, one of the really great opportunities I had was installing 5kW solar arrays for Brad Pitt's "Make It Right" Project for redevelopment in the Lower 9th Ward of New Orleans, devastated by Hurricane Katrina. I was also invited by Global Green of NOLA to teach a Women's Introductory Solar Workshop. Thanks to SEI scholarships I could attend their wonderful Basic and Advanced PV training. It would not have been possible without that help."

- Cat, SEI women's scholarship recipient, 2008



SEI is now officially a sun, wind & water powered organization.

In 2008 the Solar Hot Water class installed a single collector solar thermal system which supplies hot water to our student & staff kitchen area. In addition, we installed a PV powered DC refrigerator.

The solar demonstrations at the SEI campus also include the three real world PV systems that our classes use in trainings - grid-tie, grid-tie with battery backup, and a stand-alone system, as well as a developing world PV LED lighting system, a solar hot air system, solar water pumping system, and many solar cookers.

The Micro-hydro workshop installed a low head, high flow micro-hydro system in a creek that runs through the SEI property. This system charges the batteries on a DC water pumping system which does all the watering in our gardens on the property. All of this combined with the kW wind generator installed in the 2007 SEI Wind workshop allows the SEI ecocampus to generate enough renewably generated electicity to offset our usage, although we still have a very substantial propane bill for heating.







SEI 2008 Outreach Programs

SEI provided volunteer training and technical assistance to groups worldwide.

INVEST Program

SEI offers alumni an opportunity to participate in INVEST, International Volunteers in Environmentally Sustainable Technologies. SEI alumni 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 -- while meeting new people and experiencing new cultures.

In 2008 two INVEST volunteers worked with Grupo Fenix in Nicaragua. Grupo Fenix researches, develops and applies appropriate, renewable energy technologies in Nicaragua.

An INVEST volunteer tests a Nicaraguan made PV module with a Grupo Fenix technician ▶



Solar In the Schools

SEI's Solar In the Schools Program (SIS) targets grades K-12 and focuses on experiential learning. 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 the 2007-2008 school year, SEI presented in 18 schools throughout Colorado, teaching renewable energy to over 2400 students.

In 2008 SEI held our second annual Renewable Energy for Educators workshop in which 22 teachers from around the country and four international participants gained the confidence and knowledge needed to teach renewable energy.



▲ School children show off the solar powered fans they made in the SEI SIS training.

International & Native American Trainings

SEI responds to in-country opportunities and travels around the world training people in renewable energy technologies. The trainings include decision-makers, technicans, and end-users. Our hands-on approach helps people incorporate these technologies into sustainable development projects.

SEI teamed up with Engineers without Borders and SunEnergy Power International to to provide a week-long hands-on solar photovoltaics training for engineers in the West Bank, Palestine. The class included 11 engineers from several cities throughout the West Bank. Two engineers from Gaza joined the first day of training by way of video camera linkup. The training included basic design and maintenance, and applications to real-life examples in Palestine.



PV training in Palestine with SEI instructor Walt Ratterman

Teachers in the RE for **Educators** workshop showing off their sola power







Installing PV modules in the Women's PV Design & Installation workshop





Installing a PV system in the Renewable Energy for Developing World workshop Nicaragua

A look at 2008 in photos

SOLAR ENERGY INTERNATIONAL



adobe blocks in the Designing & Building Natural Homes

The PV Design & Installation workshop on Guemes Island, Washington





Wiring the power center in the PV Lab Week workshop

Wiring up the control center for the PV system in Ecuador in the Ecology, Permaculture and RE Workshop



Preparing to raise the wind tower in the Residential Wind Power workshop

