



NEWS RELEASE

March 3, 2008

Contact: Sal Vaca
510-307-8006

Fred Lucero
510-307-8034

Richmond BUILD Provides Solar Technology & Solar Installation Training for Richmond Residents: *Helping BUILD Brighter Futures!*

Richmond, CALIF – The *Richmond BUILD pre-apprenticeship construction skills and solar installation training program* is preparing Richmond residents for gainful employment in the Green Collar Jobs industry.

WHAT: *Richmond BUILD* pre-apprenticeship construction skills and solar installation training program provides program participants with one week of solar technology instruction and hands-on training on installing Photovoltaic (PV) systems. The last two days of training provides the students with the opportunity to apply their newly acquired skills by volunteering on an actual solar installation for a Richmond homeowner. Funding for the home solar installation is being provided by the Richmond Community Redevelopment Agency – Housing & Community Development Division. “This kind of innovation and collaboration, which brought *RichmondBUILD* into existence, continues to pay big dividends as we venture into hands-on job training for economic growth sectors.” said Steve Duran, Community & Economic Development Director for the City of Richmond.

WHY: The demand for trained Photovoltaic (PV) Installers is increasing. Three out of four companies will be increasing their hiring in the next 12 months according to a recent study of the Solar Industry in the Bay Area. The Bay Area is home to nearly 256 Solar companies, with *SunPower Corporation*, which designs, manufactures and delivers the highest efficiency solar electric technology worldwide, now located in the historic Ford Point Building in Richmond.

WHEN: Training on Solar Technology and Solar Installation is taking place the week of March 3rd through March 7th, 2008 at the Richmond BUILD training facility located at 360 South 27th Street, in the City of Richmond

For more information, please contact Mr. Fred Lucero at (510) 307-8034.

###
