



Solar heating and cooling tops new renewables in installed capacity. New scientific conference to discuss the latest advancements

SHC 2012: San Francisco 1st International Conference on Solar Heating and Cooling for Buildings and Industry

On 9-11 July 2012, San Francisco will host the International Conference on Solar Heating and Cooling for Buildings and Industry – SHC 2012. The scientific conference is organized by the International Energy Agency's Solar Heating and Cooling Programme (IEA SHC), which coordinates research on solar thermal technologies.

“SHC 2012 is the first of this new series of annual scientific conferences on solar thermal,” explains IEA SHC chairman Werner Weiss. “We invite all scientists and researchers as well as market and policy specialists to present and discuss their work.”

While only 19% of the world's energy usage is electricity, this sector usually draws all the public attention. But 53% of all energy is used for heating and cooling purposes. The SHC 2012 conference puts the spotlight on the fastest growing technology in this sector – solar thermal energy.

The worldwide capacity of solar collectors already stands at 200 GW_{th} and installation numbers are growing in countries around the world. Solar heat is used to prepare domestic hot water, to heat buildings, and in industrial processes. It is also fed into district heating networks and used for air conditioning and other cooling applications.

SHC 2012 offers a platform to discuss the latest advancements in solar heating and cooling technologies. The quality of the papers presented at the conference is assured by a Scientific Committee. The IEA SHC is glad to announce that Professor Jane Davidson of the University of Minnesota, USA and Dr. Stephen Harrison of the Queen's University, Canada will jointly head this committee.

The conference takes place in the same week as the Intersolar North America trade fair, thus allowing visitors to attend both events.

“IEA SHC has teamed up with great partners to make SHC 2012 happen,” says Dr. Andreas Häberle of conference organizer PSE AG. “The conference is supported by the International Solar Energy Society, ISES, and the European Solar Thermal Industry Federation, ESTIF. And, we are in close cooperation with Intersolar North America. This will be a conference nobody in the solar heating and cooling industry can afford to miss!”

About the International Energy Agency's Solar Heating and Cooling Programme (IEA SHC):

- The Programme was established in 1977.
- Its objectives are co-operative research, development, demonstration and exchange of information regarding solar heating and cooling systems.
- 19 countries and the European Union are IEA SHC members.
- The research topics of the current 9 projects range from more general topics, such as "Solar resource assessment and forecasting", system research, such as "Large solar thermal systems" to material research, such as the use of "Polymeric materials for solar thermal applications."

Additional information:

- Conference website: www.shc2012.org
- IEA SHC website: www.iea-shc.org

Contact information:

- **IEA SHC information centre:**
Uwe Trenkner, communications@iea-shc.org, Telephone +32 499 265 865
- **SHC 2012 conference organizer (PSE AG):**
Andreas Häberle, info@shc2012.org, Telephone +49 761 47914-0