

From: Burke O'Neal <burke@fullspectrumssolar.com>
Date: October 14, 2011 2:36:46 PM CDT
To: govgeneral@wisconsin.gov
Subject: Harming WI Industry: Poor Handling of Focus on Energy Renewables Program

Dear Governor Walker,

Full Spectrum Solar employs seventeen people directly in good paying construction jobs in WI. Many more are employed indirectly as subcontractors and in manufacturing and distribution of the products we use. We are very concerned about the handling of the renewable energy program by the Shaw Group. Nearly all the Focus on Energy incentives for renewable energy systems require that they be installed by the end of this calendar year, but there is no indication whether there will be any renewable energy programs at all next year. In fact, the Shaw Group has not even selected subcontractors to administer this program next year! This uncertainty, along with the normal year end rush to secure federal tax credits, is creating a massive push to get systems installed by the end of this year. This is requiring installers to hire additional employees and take on additional vehicles and tools, without any assurance of future work. If there is no Focus renewable program at the beginning of next year, but a possibility of a future program, every potential customer will put their work on hold. It is hard to imagine a funding approach that would be more destructive to the renewable energy industry in Wisconsin than what seems to be getting set up by Focus on Energy.

There is a Solar Wisconsin meeting October 25th at the Madison Convention Center to discuss the future of renewable energy in WI. To date, Focus on Energy has not indicated whether they will even have representatives at this meeting. We understand budgetary limitations, but this lack of organization and transparency in Focus renewable energy programs, since the Shaw Group took over, is creating seriously destructive uncertainty for Wisconsin businesses.

Sincerely,

Burke O'Neal
Full Spectrum Solar