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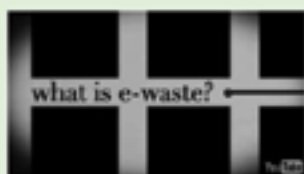
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Working for Truly Green Jobs—SVTC's Green Jobs Platform

by *lauren Ornelas*

"Green Jobs" has become a popular buzz phrase around the country and, in fact, around the world. With the broadening consensus that the Earth is in serious danger, more and more people are jumping on the "green jobs" bandwagon—but are all those jobs really green?

Unfortunately, many claims amount to what some have called "greenwashing;" misleading claims that confuse workers and the public and give a false sense that the environment is being protected.

The rapidly expanding solar industry is an important example. Solar energy has enormous potential to improve environmental quality. However, research conducted through SVTC's Just and Sustainable Solar Energy Campaign makes it clear that many of the materials used in the solar industry pose serious hazards to workers and the environment.

While the solar green jobs discussion often addresses only solar panel installation, we need to ensure green jobs throughout the global lifecycle of solar panels, including raw materials mining,

product manufacturing, and end-of-life recycling.

To clarify this complex issue, SVTC created the Green Jobs Platform for Solar (GJPS), a set of principles for the solar industry. The GJPS addresses worker health and safety and also incorporates environmental justice—the solar industry must treat workers fairly.

The GJPS contains ten principles, including adequate wages, a worker's right to know when he/she is handling hazardous chemicals, and a company's responsibilities to the communities where it operates and sells its products. Truly green jobs also offer health and other benefits, job satisfaction, access for entry-level workers, and opportunities for career advancement.

You can find out more about SVTC's Green Jobs Platform for Solar on our website, www.svtc.org/site/greenjobs_platform.

More than two dozen organizations have already signed up in support of the principles. If your organization is interested in signing on, please contact us at: SolarGreenJobs@svtc.org.



Green Jobs Platform for Solar
Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition



The Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition (SVTC) is a diverse organization that promotes human health and environmental justice in the high-tech industry through research, advocacy, and grassroots organizing.

SVTC was formed in 1982 to address the serious environmental and public health impacts of high-tech manufacturing in Silicon Valley. We were instrumental in the enactment of landmark environmental laws throughout the region. As the industry has grown and expanded globally, SVTC has worked regionally, nationally, and internationally for sustainability in the high-tech industry.

Our goals include environmental sustainability and clean production in the high-tech industry and improved health and democratic decision-making for communities and workers most affected by the high-tech revolution.

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



SOLARWUP 2011

The solar energy industry has great potential to reduce fossil fuel use, but it's increasingly clear that solar energy presents significant environmental risks of its own.

SVTC's recent trip to Germany (see the article by Lauren Ornelas in this issue) spotlighted the need for strong U.S. policies to regulate the growing solar energy industry. Germany leads the E.U. and the world in solar investment, and the facilities we visited were impressive. They are also making progress in addressing health and safety issues, and are starting the world's first solar recycling programs.

Environmental regulation in the E.U. is far ahead of the U.S., and although these policies aren't perfect, they provide a forward-thinking model. The E.U. regulates the electronics industry with its Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) directives, and it is moving toward similar policies for solar.

SVTC's January 2009 solar white paper put us at the forefront of this issue in the U.S., and over the next several years, we hope to provide leadership in moving toward effective solar industry policies. Our positive interaction with the German solar companies we visited has given us hope that they might be interested in addressing SVTC's health and environmental concerns - we are optimistic that, working together, we can ensure a safe and sustainable future for solar.


Sheila Davis
Executive Director

SVTC sincerely thanks the foundations that have supported our work over the past year

(SEPTEMBER 2008-SEPTEMBER 2009)

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| As You Sow | David L. Klein Jr. Foundation |
| The California Wellness Foundation | Marisla Foundation |
| Commonweal | The Nicholas B. Ottaway Foundation |
| Richard & Rhoda Goldman Fund | The Overbrook Foundation |
| Victor & Lorraine Honig Fund of the Common Counsel Foundation | Silicon Valley Community Foundation |
| The Kendeda Fund | Robert & Patricia Switzer Foundation |



SVTC's Just and Sustainable Solar Campaign

by Lauren Ornelas

SVTC's Just and Sustainable Solar Campaign takes on three key components of the solar industry:

- **Take-back and responsible recycling**
- **Green jobs**
- **Reduction and eventual elimination of toxic materials used in the solar industry**

These campaign elements all tie into the founding of SVTC and the toxic legacy left by the microelectronics industry. The electronics industry has left a dark imprint on many people and communities around the world.

SVTC's goal is to make sure that a similar shadow is not cast by the solar industry.

We want to ensure that solar companies selling panels in the U.S. take them back when they are no longer useful and provide safe recycling (and reuse of materials whenever possible). They should not ship solar waste overseas or to U.S. prisons, as is done currently with much U.S. e-waste. Solar has the potential to create high quality manufacturing and recycling jobs in the U.S., and we want to see that happen!

MARCH 2008:

THE WASHINGTON POST REPORTS ON THE REGULAR DUMPING OF SILICON TETRACHLORIDE (A CORROSIVE AND TOXIC BY-PRODUCT OF POLYSILICON MANUFACTURING) ON FARMLAND IN CHINA. ONE OF THE FARMERS INTERVIEWED IN THE REPORT DESCRIBED THE DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS THE DUMPING IS HAVING ON THE FARMLAND: "CROPS CANNOT GROW ON THIS, AND IT IS NOT SUITABLE FOR PEOPLE TO LIVE NEARBY."

JULY 2009:

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES REPORT THAT EVERGREEN SOLAR, LOCATED IN MASSACHUSETTS, IS NOT FAR FROM BEING ONE OF THE STATE'S TOP PRODUCERS OF HAZARDOUS WASTE. NITRIC ACID AND SULFURIC ACID, BOTH HIGHLY CORROSIVE, ARE JUST TWO OF THE SEVERAL HAZARDOUS WASTE MATERIALS PRODUCED BY EVERGREEN SOLAR.

From Silicon Valley To Solar Valley— A First-Hand Look at the German Solar Industry

by Lauren Ornelas

Early this fall, SVTC representatives (staff Sheila Davis, Dustin Mulvaney, and I, as well as board member Perlita Dicochea) traveled to Germany's "Solar Valley" for a first-hand look at some of the largest solar companies in the world. We were especially interested in seeing solar recycling. Only three manufacturers in the world recycle solar panels, and two of these are in Germany.

We observed production of both silicon-based and cadmium telluride solar panels, and also saw recycling operations for these panels. We had an opportunity to discuss SVTC's solar campaign objectives with compa-

ny representatives, and most were already familiar with our recent solar white paper.

We took a short trip to Brussels to meet with the European Photovoltaic Industry Association (EPIA) and PV Cycle (a European voluntary industry take back and recycling plan). We also met with NGOs in both Germany and Belgium to hear their assessments of the effectiveness of recent E.U. environmental directives.

Overall, the trip really opened our eyes to the differences between the production and recycling of the different solar panels. We will need a solution for all types.

What is Green?

SVTC's 2009 ANNUAL BENEFIT

by Corinna Dixon



Peter Drekmeier, Mayor of Palo Alto, served as our Master of Ceremonies

Drekmeier, Palo Alto mayor and long time environmentalist.

Sheila Davis, SVTC's Executive Director, gave a powerful presentation about SVTC's past, present, and future campaigns, highlighting our Just and Sustainable Solar Energy Campaign and the Green Jobs Platform for Solar.

Each year, SVTC honors individuals around the globe who have made a special contribution to environmental sustainability. This year, we were honored to present awards to four individuals and one agency who have exemplified outstanding leadership and courage.

Community Partner Award for outstanding leadership and service to the community in sup-

The Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition (SVTC) would like to thank our guests, sponsors, and supporters for making this year's Annual Fundraising Benefit a great success!

Held at the Mexican Heritage Plaza in San José on October 24, the event celebrated SVTC's 27th year working to protect workers, communities, and the environment. Our master of ceremonies was Peter

port of a more sustainable future:

- Byron Sher

Helen Clark Award for courage and dedication in the struggle for occupational and environmental health:

- Mike Wilson

Debbie Cole Memorial Award for outstanding and courageous community service:

- Erica Fernandez

Ted Zuur Award for outstanding volunteer efforts:

- Esperanza Sanz Escudero
- The Hoffman Agency

Guests walked away with some great silent auction items including a City Carshare membership, Funky Bling jewelry, and wine tasting tours at several local wineries. Live music by *Unintended Consequences* followed the awards ceremony, and everyone was able to kick up their heels and do some dancing!

You can view more photos and find out more about SVTC's 2009 Annual Benefit on our website at www.svtc.org.



Music, performed by Unintended Consequences, was enjoyed by all. (Brod Seligman and Kathleen Antonia pictured).

**SVTC RECOGNIZES THE SPONSORS OF
OUR 2009 BENEFIT
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Visionaries

Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition Board

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Fred Gellert Family Foundation

Advocates

As You Sow

City of San Jose Environmental Services Department

Leaders

Consumer Attorneys Public Interest Foundation

ECS Refining

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 332

Party Helpers

Plumbers, Steamfitters & Refrigeration Fitters UA Local 393

Stewards

Chad Raphael and Betty Achinstein

Cindy and Wayne Davison

Cindy Russell

City CarShare

Food Empowerment Project

Genny Chapman

Kenneth and Janet Gray Hayes

SEIU Local 521 Social and Economic Justice Committee

State Senator Joe Simitian



**SVTC RECOGNIZES THE
DONORS TO OUR 2009
BENEFIT. THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SUPPORT!**

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Gordon Biersch Brewery

Green Mountain Coffee

Happy Go Lucky

Oregon Shakespeare Festival

Pect's Coffee and Tea

Peninsula Symphony

Photography by Delgado

San Francisco Giants

San Jose Repertory Theater

San Jose Sharks

Savannah Chanelle Vineyards

Sun Flour Baking Company/SK Publishing

TheatreWorks

Trader Joe's

Winchester Mystery House

Thank You!

Your Support Makes SVTC's Success Possible

Throughout SVTC's 27 years of environmental activism, our work has relied on the commitment and generosity of people like you. Together we have worked to ensure a safe, sustainable, and just future for the global high-tech industry, and we are now applying that experience to rapidly growing solar energy and clean tech sectors.

Thank you for helping to make our shared vision a reality, and we look forward to your continued partnership.

With your help, we will be able to promote environmental sustainability, clean production, and safe working conditions for generations to come!

You can make a secure, tax-deductible contribution to SVTC using the enclosed envelope. Or if you prefer, you can donate online at www.svtc.org.



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And the Winner Is...!

SVTC VIDEO CONTEST FIGHTS E-WASTE

by Monica Cedejas

SVTC chose Earth Day 2009 to launch our very first video contest, "Uploading for Responsible Recycling." We invited people to create 90-second (or less) videos about the environmental and health impacts of e-waste. Contest judges included representatives from Treehugger.com and Free Range Graphics, as well as the maker of SVTC's documentary Citizens at Risk, a representative of the Santa Clara County Department of Environmental Health, a professor from Santa Clara University, and our very own SVTC staff.

The entries were terrific! They included both animation and live action pieces, and ranged from light-hearted dramatizations to earnest calls to action.

Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition's 2009 Viral Video Contest

Uploading for Responsible Recycling



On July 22nd we were excited to announce Michael Herp from Texas as our first place winner. His imaginative video has been viewed more than 450 times, and continues to get more views every day. We also showed this wonderful outreach video at our annual benefit in October 2009. The winning video, as well as the excellent runner-up entries, can be viewed at www.svtc.org/videocontest2009.