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April 13, 2010

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U. S. Department of Energy Holds Third Annual Solar America Cities in Salt Lake City
Governor Herbert, Mayor Becker and Mayor Corroon Welcome National Solar Experts

SALT LAKE CITY –Utah Governor Gary R. Herbert, Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker, and Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon will welcome participants of the Department of Energy’s (DOE) Third Annual Solar America Cities meeting on Wednesday, April 14, at 8:30 a.m. at the City Center Marriott at 220 South State Street in Salt Lake City. Held Wednesday April 13 – Friday April 16, 2010, the meetings feature educational sessions addressing new solar financing models, job training, permitting and codes, and progress made over the past year in each of the 25 Solar America Cities.

Recognizing the important role of local governments in accelerating the widespread adoption of solar energy, the Solar America Cities effort is built upon partnerships with 25 large U.S. cities to develop comprehensive, city-wide approaches to increasing solar energy use. Over 150 local government leaders and national solar experts are collaborating to share best practices and innovative ideas for advancing solar energy in communities across the nation. This format encourages cities to learn from each other and replicate the most successful practices.

“The Solar America Cities Annual Meeting is a primary venue for our Solar America Cities partners to share lessons learned, collaborate on future efforts and pave the way for local governments across the U.S. to advance solar in their communities,” said John Lushetsky, solar program manager, U.S. Department of Energy. “We are excited to be here in Salt Lake City, one of the Solar America Cities that is leading the adoption of solar energy.”

“As the nation’s centers of electricity consumption, cities are uniquely positioned to reduce global climate change, strengthen America’s energy independence, and support the transition to a clean energy economy by converting to solar energy sources,” said Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker. “We are excited to participate in a collaborative partnership that will influence solar technology deployment here in Utah, and across the nation.”

Speakers include Cyrus Wadia of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, John Lushetsky, DOE’s Solar Program Manager, Christopher Flavin of the Worldwatch Institute, Utah Governor Gary Herbert, Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker, and Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon.

As one of the DOE's 25 Solar America Cities, Salt Lake City was awarded federal grants for the Solar Salt Lake Project, a partnership between Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, Utah Clean Energy, and other stakeholders. The goal of the project is to significantly drive the use of solar energy development throughout Salt Lake Valley and the state of Utah.

"We are thrilled to welcome Solar America Cities to Salt Lake and look forward to furthering solar energy initiatives and educating our community about the benefits of clean energy use throughout the valley," added Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon. "Our Solar Salt Lake Project is developing innovative financing mechanisms and addressing regulatory barriers to solar energy use."

"This meeting provides an exciting opportunity to highlight our efforts to increase and improve renewable energy in Utah," Governor Gary R. Herbert said. "Under our watch, Utah has diversified its energy portfolio with the development of several commercial-scale renewable energy sources that not only meet our need for additional energy, but also fuel economic growth across the state."

About Solar America Cities

Solar America Cities is a U.S. Department of Energy program to increase the use and integration of solar energy in communities across the country. The Department of Energy is accomplishing this goal through partnerships with 25 large U.S. cities, as well as outreach and assistance to hundreds of communities. The Third Annual Solar America Cities Meeting follows very successful meetings in San Antonio (2009) and Tucson (2008). All 25 cities were represented at both meetings. For further information visit: www.solaramericacities.energy.gov.

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