

## INDUSTRY NEWS

### KEMICK CONSTRUCTION Co. RECEIVES GRAND AURORA AWARD IN THE 2003 SOLAR ENERGY EFFICIENCY DESIGN COMPETITION

**K**emick Construction Co. is the recipient of the Grand Aurora Award for the Solar Energy Efficiency Design Competition, which was presented by the Southeast Building Conference (SEBC) and the Florida Home Builders Association. This annual competition, which is sponsored by the Florida Solar Energy Industries Association (FlaSEIA), recognizes builders who design and build solar-efficient homes and light commercial structures.

Each entry was judged on the overall aesthetic appeal and the utilization of the latest technological advances in solar energy

construction, and new or creative energy-saving techniques. Aurora Award winners were honored at the Aurora Awards Dinner/Extravaganza during the SEBC on July 26 at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando.

Kemick Construction Co. was the builder and Thermal Conversion Technology, Inc. was the solar company.

FlaSEIA also presented two additional Aurora Awards to Robertson Homes utilizing AllSolar Service Company, Inc. and Pruett Builders, Inc. utilizing Thermal Conversion Technology, Inc.



*FlaSEIA President (2002–2003) Pete DeNapoli, Shell Solar Industries; one of the Aurora Award recipients Drew Smith, Manager of Product Development for Pruett Builders, Inc.; and FlaSEIA Board Member Steve Gorman, Thermal Conversion Technology, Inc.*

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**DAVE BESSETTE**  
**FLASEIA PRESIDENT**

Outstanding and awesome are the only adjectives that come to mind when describing the recent dinner/auction. A spirited auction head-mastered by our own Skip West netted FlaSEIA over \$18,000.00. This certainly was the shot in the arm our association needed. It put some serious funds into our PAC account and general revenue fund. I would like to thank all of the companies and individuals that donated products and services to the first annual dinner/auction. Of course, a big thank you to all those people and companies who opened their pocket books and bought everything Skip so aptly offered.

This was Skip's brainchild and he deserves a "you're the man" from everyone. So the next time you see Skip, let him know it and ask him how you and/or your company can participate in next year's event. And thanks to Bruce, Julie and Terry for putting on a nicely orchestrated event, including an air conditioned room.

We had a very fruitful Board meeting with everyone coming away with a renewed vigor and enthusiasm for the next year. Our membership committee (our backbone) needs all of your support this coming year as we have to increase our membership. Again, I am asking the entire membership to take upon themselves to seek out potential members and bring them into our fold. We are only as strong as our membership.

We are in the process of updating our website and one of the items we are in desperate need of is pictures. Please e-mail your photos of installations you are most proud of. Also, if you have ideas on how to make our site better, e-mail them to

the FlaSEIA office. By the way, all correspondence for our association (including the Newsletter) is done by e-mail.

*Best Regards,*

*Dave Bessette*



*The  
Fla.S.E.I.A  
Board of  
Directors and  
Staff wish  
everyone a  
Happy  
Holiday  
Season and a  
prosperous New  
Year!*

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## PENSACOLA COMMUNITY FEELS POWER OF THE SUN

Governor Jeb Bush is putting Florida's sunshine to work to conserve energy and reduce electricity bills. Florida is providing solar water heaters to seven households in the Panhandle — the first of 150 that will be delivered to residents in underserved communities throughout the state. Named Front Porch Sunshine, the program is the first in the nation to install solar energy technology in weatherized, low-income homes.

“Energy conservation protects the environment and saves money,” said Governor Bush. “Extending the environmental and economic benefits of conservation to Florida’s neediest citizens improves our quality of life and strengthens our communities.”

The reliable, low-maintenance solar systems use the sun’s energy, instead of electricity, to heat water. A solar

collector installed on the roof holds water that is heated by the sun. A traditional water heater serves as a backup supply of hot water on overcast or rainy days.

“The Department of Community Affairs is proud to be a part of this collaborative effort,” said Department of Community Affairs Secretary Colleen Castille. “By providing weatherization and energy-saving opportunities to our residents, families that need it most are able to minimize their energy bills and dedicate their financial resources to other important items in their monthly budgets.”

“Pensacola enjoys over 340 days of sunshine each year,” said Department of Environmental Protection Deputy Secretary Allan Bedwell. “Harnessing the power of the sun is clean, free and expands



*Industry News* is the official newsletter of the Florida Solar Energy Industries Association (FlaSEIA), a nonprofit, professional association of companies involved in the solar and energy conservation industries. *Industry News* is published four times per year and distributed to all member companies of FlaSEIA and a broad range of other interested parties.

energy savings to Florida's underserved communities.”

The Florida Energy Office, Florida Solar Energy Center and Florida Solar Energy Research & Education Foundation established a partnership with Front Porch Florida, a program launched by Governor Bush in 1999 to revitalize low-income neighborhoods, to improve energy efficiency of homes in designated communities throughout the State. State agencies are assisting 20 designated neighborhoods with community-driven initiatives for economic growth, education and environmental preservation.

“I am thrilled the Pensacola Front Porch community is the first to benefit from this groundbreaking program,” said Patricia West, Director of Florida’s Office of Urban Opportunity. “Bringing the power of solar energy to our communities is a wonderful way for residents to take advantage of the successful

collaboration between the Department of Community Affairs, Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Solar Energy Research & Education Foundation and community partners.”

For more information about Front Porch Florida, visit [www.myflorida.com](http://www.myflorida.com). For more about Front Porch Sunshine, visit [www.fsec.ucf.edu/solar/projects/frontporch/frontporch.htm](http://www.fsec.ucf.edu/solar/projects/frontporch/frontporch.htm).



Gainesville – Ms. Robinson’s solar electric panels mounted to her roof use the sun’s energy to heat the water in her home.

**THIS IS NEWS!**



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# GAINESVILLE HOME GETS SOLAR WATER HEATER

**F**rigid temperatures and plenty of warm sunshine made for the perfect weather for one Duval Heights resident to accept the community's first donation of an energy-efficient solar water heater at an installation ceremony Saturday.

Through Front Porch Florida, a statewide urban renewal program for selected low-income communities, Mildred Robinson received a solar water heater that will save her \$20 to \$40 a month, depending on how often she uses it.

The Florida Energy Office, Florida Solar Energy Center and Florida Solar Energy Research and Education partnered with Front Porch Florida to improve energy efficiency in 20 designated communities statewide by providing solar heaters.

The solar heaters reduce electricity use by using the sun as an alternative for heating water.

Robinson's is the first of seven

heaters to be donated to Gainesville residents.

She is one of 150 residents who qualified to receive a heater in the state by the end of 2004.

Named Front Porch Sunshine, the federal- and state-funded project makes Florida the first state in the country to install solar energy technology in weatherized, low-income residences, said Allan Bedwell, deputy secretary for regulatory programs and energy in the Department of Environmental Protection.

"Harnessing the power of the sun's energy is clean, free and expands energy savings to Florida's underserved communities," Bedwell said.

Robinson's new system will heat 42 gallons of water up to 150 degrees, said Tom Lane of Energy Conservation Services of North Florida, who installed the heater in her home.

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*Industry News* is published quarterly by the Florida Solar Energy Industries Association (FlaSEIA). Ideas, opinions and views expressed herein are not necessarily those of FlaSEIA.

# PENSACOLA SCHOOL RECEIVES SOLAR ELECTRIC SYSTEM

Florida schools are using the state's free supply of sunshine to boost their energy needs. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), together with Gulf Power, the Florida Solar Energy Center and Escambia County Schools, recently held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly installed solar electric system at Pensacola's West Florida High School for Advanced Technology.

"Planning for future energy needs ensures a brighter tomorrow for Florida," said DEP Deputy Secretary for Regulatory Programs and Energy Allan Bedwell. "Installing solar technology in our schools protects our environment and quality of life and also provides an unparalleled educational opportunity for students."

This first solar electric system installation launches Florida's Solar for Schools Program, which aims to place 29 solar electric systems in schools throughout the state. A first of its kind in Florida, the public-private partnership combines clean energy production with science in schools.

"Florida's energy and environmental futures are inextricably linked," said Bedwell. "The most important source of energy is the energy we conserve. Advancing clean energy technology conserves resources, prevents pollution, saves taxpayer dollars and, in this case, teaches valuable lessons to the leaders of tomorrow."

Unlike fossil fuels, the energy created by the solar unit emits no noise or pollution. The electric power generated by the system will be used to power the school's classrooms, with excess energy returned to the local power grid. The system will also

provide an on-site classroom for students to learn more about solar power and the benefits of energy conservation.

"The solar facility will be a valuable teaching tool and will give students an opportunity to view energy from another perspective," said West Florida High School Principal Lesa Morgan.

West Florida High School is the only school in Escambia County participating in the Solar for Schools Program. The school integrates traditional academic subjects with technical training to prepare students for employment or post-secondary education.

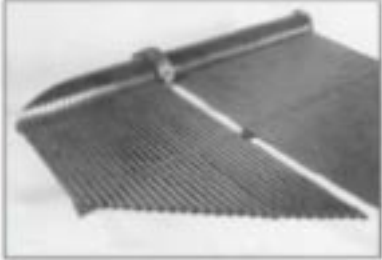
Florida's Solar for Schools Program is funded by the Florida Energy Office and managed by the Florida Solar Energy Center. The Center is providing the engineering design for system installations and inspections, and posting select metered data online at <http://www.fsec.ucf.edu/pvt/pvbasics/index.htm>.

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# Initiative:

FlaSEIA wishes to thank the following companies for their financial commitment to FlaSEIA and the Florida solar energy industry as participants in the Florida Manufacturers' Initiative (FMI) program.

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SunEarth, Inc.  
Thermal Conversation Technology, Inc.

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# Horizon:

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FlaSEIA Board of Director's Meeting  
February 11, 2004  
FlaSEIA office in Longwood

FlaSEIA Board of Director's Meeting  
April 1, 2004  
Tallahassee

FlaSEIA Board of Director's Meeting  
June 15, 2004  
FlaSEIA office in Longwood

Southeast Building Conference Trade Show  
August 5–7, 2004  
Orange County Convention Center  
Orlando, Florida

Southeast Building Conference Trade Show  
July 14–16, 2005  
Orange County Convention Center  
Orlando, Florida

For additional information on the above mentioned meetings and/or events, please contact the FlaSEIA office at (407) 339–2010.



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