

# Solar Energy Facts: Year In Review 2011

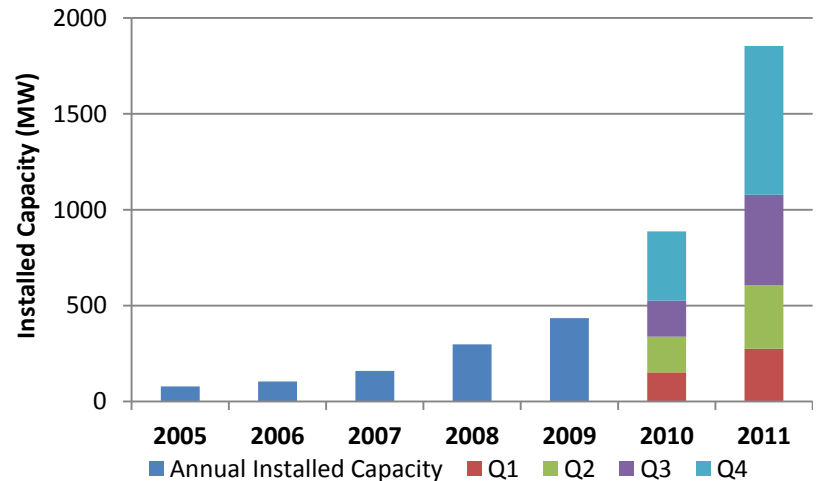
## Fourth Quarter Caps Historic Year for U.S. Solar Industry

The U.S. solar energy industry achieved a new record for installations and growth in 2011. Overall, there were 1,855 MW of Photovoltaic (PV) installations in all of 2011, representing 109 percent growth over 2010.<sup>1</sup> PV demand grew 115 percent in the fourth quarter of 2011 over the same quarter in 2010 and 64 percent over the third quarter of 2011. The U.S. solar industry installed 776 MW in the fourth quarter of 2011, far surpassing the record set the previous quarter.

### U.S. Solar Industry Continues Strong Growth

- The U.S. now has over 4,460 MW of installed solar electric capacity.
- The utility PV market installed 758 MW in 2011, which is a 185 percent increase over utility installations in 2010.
- The commercial PV market grew 127 percent in 2011 to reach 800 MW of installations.
- Much of this growth is due to the Section 1603 Treasury program, which expired on Dec. 31, 2011. An extension is important to keep the solar industry growing and creating jobs in the U.S.

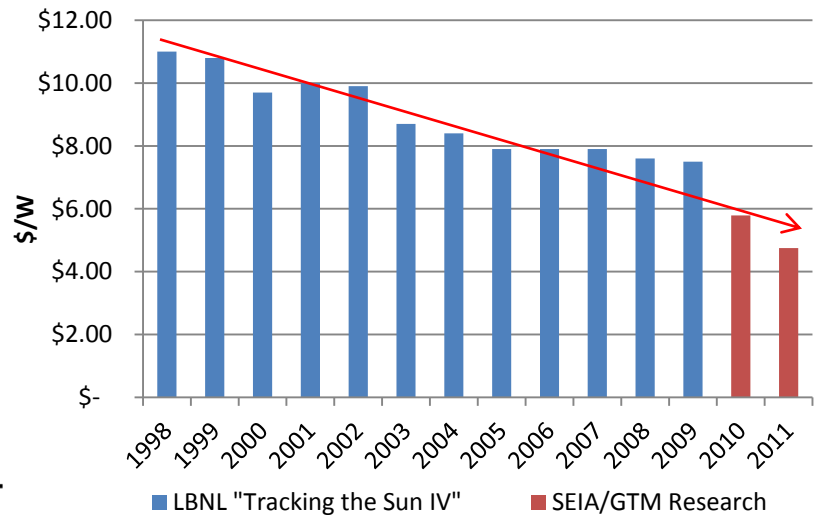
**New U.S. PV Installations**



### Solar Energy Continues To Become More Affordable

- The average cost of a completed PV system dropped by 20 percent in the fourth quarter of 2011 compared to the fourth quarter of 2010.
- Since the beginning of 2010, the average cost of a PV system has dropped by more than 35 percent.
- The average price of a solar panel declined by more than 50% in 2011.
- While these price drops are beneficial for the end user, the sharp fall in prices, driven in part by a global oversupply, has put a serious strain on solar manufacturers worldwide.

**Average Installed Price of PV**

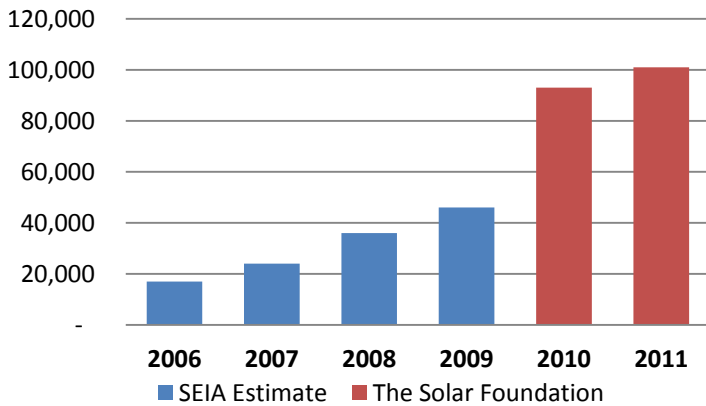


<sup>1</sup>All data from SEIA/GTM Research "U.S. Solar Market Insight Q4/Year In Review" unless otherwise noted

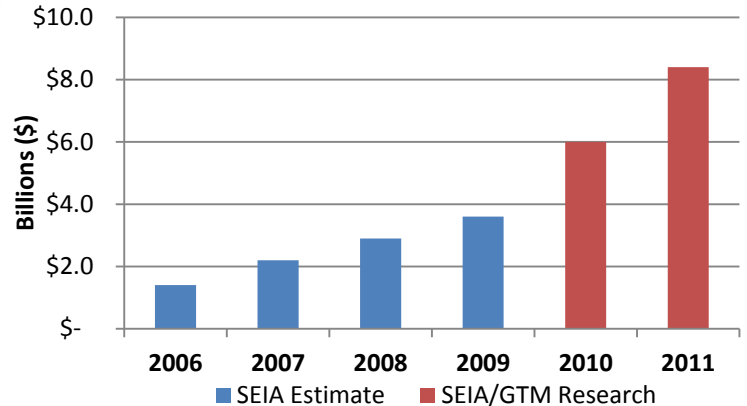
## Solar Energy Is an Economic Engine

As the solar industry grows, so does its impact on the economy. As of August 2011, there were over 100,000<sup>2</sup> solar workers in the U.S., more than double the estimated employment in 2009. These workers are employed at over 5,600 businesses in every state, many of which are small companies. The increasing value of solar installations has injected life into the U.S. economy as well. In 2011, solar installations were valued at \$8.4 billion, compared to \$6 billion in 2010.

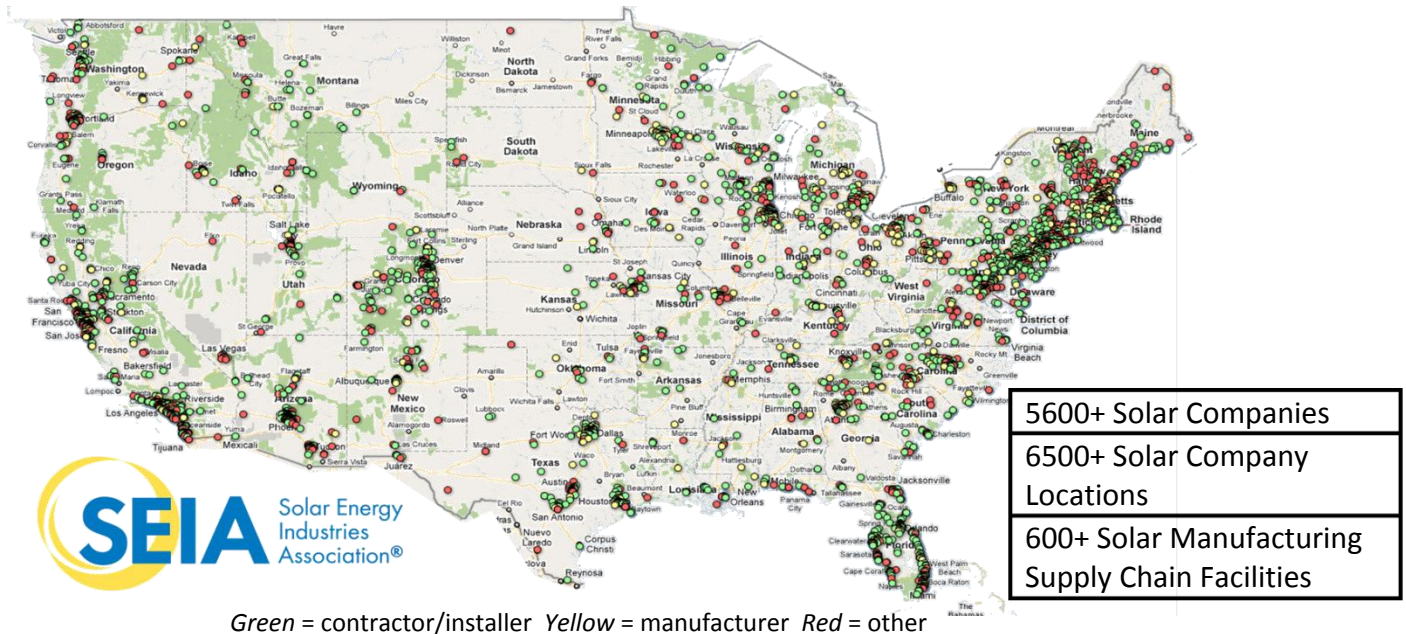
### U.S. Solar Workforce



### Value of Solar Installations



### U.S. Solar Business Locations



### About the Solar Energy Industries Association®

Established in 1974, the Solar Energy Industries Association is the national trade association of the U.S. solar energy industry. Through advocacy and education, SEIA® and its 1,100 member companies are building a strong solar industry to power America. As the voice of the industry, SEIA works to make solar a mainstream and significant energy source by expanding markets, removing market barriers, strengthening the industry and educating the public on the benefits of solar energy.

For more information, please visit [www.seia.org](http://www.seia.org).

<sup>2</sup> The Solar Foundation "National Solar Jobs Census 2011"