



**Solar Rating & Certification Corporation™**  
The Industry Standard Since 1980.



## **Chairman's Report** **Solar Rating & Certification Corporation**

**September, 2012**

First of all I am honored to have been re-elected to the SRCC board by my peers in the solar heating and cooling industry, and to once again be elected as the Chair by my fellow board directors. Thank you for your support as we faced the toughest periods in the SRCC's history, and for your continued dedication to making the solar heating and cooling industry a leader in energy independence and job creation for our nation.

Recently I met with the Strategic Planning Committee of the SRCC along with Eileen Prado, the Executive Director, and Jim Huggins, the Technical Director. As we reviewed the challenges we faced at our last meeting two years ago, I was encouraged by how far the organization has come in such a short time.

Two years ago, the industry was upset by the long wait time for certification, both with the SRCC and with the labs doing collector tests. There were two labs available for OG-100 testing and the wait time to have your collector *begin* a test was more than two years. Today, Industry participants can choose to have their collectors tested at any of the 18 labs in the SRCC program located all over the globe, eliminating the wait time for testing to start.

In August, 2010 there were 309 collectors pending certification of which 129 were awaiting lab test reports and another 118 were waiting for SRCC to work on them. The queue represented 18 months' work. Today, those numbers are dramatically reduced. Only 7% of our collector certification queue is awaiting SRCC to complete a task, and the average time to certify is down to six months including the time the lab needs to conduct the tests and submit the reports.

The progress in system certifications is even more remarkable. The queue in August, 2010 was more than 17 months. Today, it's less than one month on average. That doesn't mean every single system can be certified in one month, but most – the vast majority – are.

In August, 2012, the SRCC launched its new automated application process. This was one of the strategic action items agreed to when we problem solved the delays in processing applications. Now applicants can work on the details of their collectors and systems ensuring they submit a complete and accurate application the SRCC staff can go to work on right away. Having complete and accurate information will continue to drive down the time it takes to get your collectors and systems certified and drive down the organizations' costs too.

The SRCC is very sensitive to the costs associated with the certification process and ongoing programs. They understand that most of their participants are small organizations working hard to



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create a viable and profitable business. The budget process is detailed and thorough ensuring priorities for the stakeholders are addressed without burdening the participants to spend more than absolutely necessary for the services they require. You can expect the SRCC to continue developing programs that benefit their three major stakeholders - consumers, program managers, and the industry – while being mindful of the costs and work associated.

We understand that as a participant you really wish to deal with only one certification corporation for all your markets. Our partnership with the International Code Council (ICC) truly makes the SRCC ***the only source you need for solar thermal program compliance anywhere in the U.S!***

I am very proud of the SRCC staff, board of directors, and committee volunteers. They have overcome a major challenge without ever compromising on the quality of their work which our industry and program managers rely on.

The SRCC faces new and different challenges today than they did in 2010. The Solar Heating and Cooling industry as a whole faces new challenges. But unlike the uncertainty surrounding the SRCC back then, the organization is well equipped to face the challenges of this new chapter in our industry. We all value the SRCC's reputation as the "Industry standard since 1980" and, on behalf of the board of directors and staff, we are excited to contribute our expertise and experience to new markets and evolving innovations in the future.

Thank you for your continued support of the Solar Rating & Certification Corporation. If you happen to be at the SPI show in Orlando come see them at booth # 3661.

***-Ole Pilgaard, Chairman***