The Thomas Jefferson Solar Panel Initiative
The Thomas Jefferson High School
for Science and Technology

April 09, 2008

Dear TJ Alumnus,

We write to ask for your support of the Thomas Jefferson Solar Panel Initiative (TJSPI), a group working to raise funds to purchase and install solar panels at the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST).

This project will have an ecological and educational aspect to it. Although the results of using renewable energy are well known, namely, independence from fossil fuels and significantly reduced pollution and green house gas emissions, the educational impacts of this project are also immense. TJHSST has an Energy Systems Research Laboratory and several associated classes. Students in these classes study various forms of renewable energy, especially solar energy. Although reading and learning about these systems is beneficial, having a working solar panel array to work with would be a phenomenal source of study.

The solar panels would reduce the energy costs of the school, allowing funds to be redirected to desperately under-funded areas. The panels will produce an estimated 70,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity yearly, saving the county thousands of dollars. This clean, renewable energy would replace electricity that currently comes from burning coal. Also, on-grid solar electricity could act as a backup energy source in the event of blackouts: students were out of school for more than two days due to power failures last year alone.

TJHSST was recently named America's #1 High School by the US News and World Report. Not only does this new status bring with it the responsibility to lead the way in 21st-century renewable energy technology, but it also gives our school the power to act as a model and influence other schools. We hope to make our school a prototype for the use of solar energy, encouraging other schools to follow suit.

With your help, we raised $40,000 in FY 2008 to purchase an initial, grid-tied solar photovoltaic panel array. Now, we are looking to expand the system and explore other forms of alternative energy. To meet this goal, we seek to raise an additional $10,000 by the end of June 2009 via the assistance of TJ alumni, community members, groups, and businesses that recognize the importance of advancing science and technology in our next generation, becoming more acutely aware of our dependence on nonrenewable energy, and encouraging students to become more involved and understanding of current issues.

To contribute, please send the attached form to:
Amanda Hurowitz
TJ Solar Panel Initiative
c/o the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology
6560 Braddock Rd.
Alexandria, VA 22312

We accept both monetary contributions and donations of material goods and/or services. The attached

form is for monetary contributions from individuals. If you would like to contribute materials/services or if you would like to donate in the name of a business or an organization, please email us at the.tjspi@gmail.com. Please note that since this is a donation to a Fairfax County Public School, *all donations are tax deductible*. Donors contributing a donation valued at $1,000 or more (combined monetary value and estimated material value) will be recognized by having their names engraved in a commemorative donor wall with a digital display located at TJHSST. Contributions of higher amounts will have larger plaques on the display. Recognition and tax deductibility still apply for material/service contributions and business donations.

For more information, please visit tjspi.110mb.com. Thank you for advancing science and technology in our area and for supporting FCPS, TJHSST, and the students who make up these bodies.

Sincerely,

Varun Bansal Chairman, TJSPI	Seth Kolker Secretary, TJSPI	Amanda Hurowitz Sponsor, TJSPI	Hadan Kauffman Sponsor, TJSPI

Attached: Donation Form, TJSPI Information Sheet, Standard Solar Information Sheet

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Your tax-deductible donation will go to purchasing and installing solar panels at TJHSST. Please make checks payable to "TJHSST." Please contact us first if donating materials/services or as a business.

✂----------

Full Name: _____
last first middle initial

Address: _____
number street (apt. #) city state zip

Phone Number: (_____) _____ - _____
area code

Email Address: _____

Contribution (circle):

$50 $100 $250 $500 $1000 $5000

Other: $_____

Enclosed (circle): Cash Check

Please check (✔) this box if you would like a **receipt** of your donation: ☐

If contributing $1000 or more, please write below the name you would like to go on the donor wall (e.g. The Smith Family)*. Check box if not applicable.

_____

_____

_____

-or- Check here if not applicable: ☐

✂----------

Please mail this form, along with your check or cash contribution, to:
Amanda Hurowitz
TJ Solar Panel Initiative
c/o the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology
6560 Braddock Rd.
Alexandria, VA 22312

Thank you so much for your contribution!

*Three lines maximum; engraving will appear as you write it (including capitalization and spacing).

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About the TJSPI and Mission Statement
Founded in 2006, the Thomas Jefferson Solar Panel Initiative (TJSPI) is comprised of a group of student volunteers from the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. The students work under the guidance of Ms. Amanda Hurowitz and Mr. Hadan Kauffman, faculty members at TJHSST. The mission of the TJSPI is to integrate solar energy into the TJHSST building and culture by ultimately powering the entire school from solar power.

TJSPI Goals
To achieve energy independence for TJ, one must first install the framework of the solar panel system, as well as an initial array of solar photovoltaic panels. Thus, the foremost goal is to obtain an initial, on-grid solar power system. An off-grid system is not the goal of this committee. The accompanying goal and provision is to ensure the maintenance and repair of the system for the future.

Solar energy is the most feasible and cost-effective renewable energy solution in Northern Virginia. Other forms of renewable energy, such as wind power, are excellent in the correct conditions; in TJ's area, however, there is not enough wind to make wind power practical. Thus, given the current state of technology, solar power is the best route.

Benefits
The benefits of installing solar panels at TJHSST impact the school, the community, and the world. Of course, one benefit of solar panels is less dependence on fossil fuels and a decrease in carbon dioxide emissions, reducing the rate of climate change. Additionally, solar panels at TJ would provide a working model for study by students, such as those in the Energy Systems Lab, and would be fascinating for students at a science and tech school. Third, using solar power would reduce TJ's energy bills and free up funding for other purposes. Finally, last year, school days were canceled due to power failures. Solar panels would provide an energy backup to ensure these mishaps do not reoccur.

Our Plan
Though student-driven, this project is being guided by Ms. Amanda Hurowitz and Mr. Hadan Kauffman, distinguished members of the TJHSST Faculty. Additionally, the project has been approved by Dr. Evan Glazer, Principal of TJHSST, and by Fairfax County Public School administrators.

The TJSPI has chosen to work with Standard Solar Inc. for the purchase and installation of solar panels. Standard Solar, a Maryland-based company that specializes in solar power installations in the area, has generously given a discount on the solar panel system, as well as free installation and training seminars for students and faculty at TJ. The funding for this project will come from: corporate donations; community members, groups, businesses, charities; and grants from various organizations.

More Information
If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Varun Bansal at vbansal@tjhsst.edu, Seth Kolker at 2010skolker@tjhsst.edu, or the TJSPI at the.tjspi@gmail.com, or visit our website at **tjspi.110mb.com**.

Additional documentation is available upon request. Please complete the document request form on the website (tjspi.110mb.com/contact) to receive additional documents.

About Standard Solar Inc.

“We are a group of solar energy professionals who decided it was time to make it easy and convenient for people to buy solar electric systems in America. With over 100 years combined experience in solar power and PV (photovoltaics), our team of dedicated practitioners, installers, electricians and managers offer simple, affordable and reliable energy services to homeowners. Here are some of us:

Neville Williams, chairman & founder, previously founded and ran a company that sold and installed over 70,000 solar home lighting systems in the developing world. He is the author of *Chasing The Sun*, a book about the global solar energy business (www.newsociety.com);

Tony Clifford, president, director, started his career at Solarex in the 70's as its first MBA hire, and has returned to solar after 20 years as a CEO and CFO of several technology companies;

Lee Bristol, vice president, chief of operations, director, is a NABCEP-certified engineering graduate of MIT who has mastered the installation of solar home systems in the Metro DC region and was among the first in Maryland to retrofit his house with solar power and solar water heating;

Gerald Braun, director, renewables team leader for the California Energy Commission, brings 15 years' experience in electric power and 10 years in solar PV (PG&E, Solarex and BP Solar) to the board;

Bob Thomason, director, ex-banker, air charter pilot, investor, from Charlotte, NC;

Titus Brenninkmeijer, director, investor, renewable energy venture fund manager and former department store chain executive who walks the talk with 11kW of solar modules on his Pasadena, CA, home. Visit his Website at: www.solgenix.net

Ellin Todd, co-founder, investor, former biotech corporation executive, solar advocate, from Boulder, CO.

Our company is proud of its installation crews, led by Andrew Truitt, NABCEP certified PV installer, who installed PV in California prior to joining Standard Solar. Andrew holds a BS in physics from U.C. Santa Cruz and an MSc in Renewable Energy Systems Technology from Loughborough U. in Britain. Installers include the multi-talented and dedicated Matt Griffiths, Tim Hannigan, and Kevin Higgins. Customer service is in the capable hands of Jan Jaremko and sales is headed up by Brian Desmond. Together, we want to make solar standard.

Standard Solar is proud to have attracted the talents of veteran solar pros such as Walt Ratterman, who traded in a large electrical contracting business for the solar world; Angelina Galiteva, who ran the solar photovoltaic program for the Dept. of Water and Power, Los Angeles; Scott Sklar, who headed up the U.S. Solar Energy Industries Association for 15 years; and Johnny Weiss, founder of Solar Energy International in Colorado, America's leading solar training institute.

Standard Solar is especially grateful for the support of America's great solar pioneer, Dr.Peter Varadi, who founded the Solarex Corporation and brought solar electricity down from space to Earth.

We are expanding our team and will always be looking for committed and experienced people who believe we can save the planet one roof at a time.”