



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

Company Name  
Company Address Line 1  
Line 2

To whom it may concern:

Our names are Varun Bansal and Seth Kolker. We are the Chairman and Secretary of the Thomas Jefferson Solar Panel Initiative (TJSPI), respectively, at the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST, [www.tjhsst.edu](http://www.tjhsst.edu)) located in Alexandria, Virginia. The mission of the TJSPI is to raise enough funds to purchase and install solar panels at TJHSST.

Our committee has been working to make our school a prototype for the use of solar energy. The benefits of installing solar panels at TJHSST are numerous. Of course, it would lessen our school's carbon footprint, support new renewable energy technology, and reduce the large amounts of pollution and green house gas emissions that come from our school's coal-based power supply. More importantly, it could provide a model for other schools to follow: TJHSST was recently named America's Best High School by the US News and World Report. Installing solar panels here will encourage other schools to follow suit.

The school itself will reap many benefits—decreased energy costs, reduced risks of blackouts, and renewable energy technology available to study, to name a few. The panels will produce an estimated 70,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity yearly, saving the county thousands of dollars. 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. Finally, installing solar panels would open up new fields of technological study at our school, especially for the popular Energy Systems Senior Research Laboratory.

To reach our goals, we need your assistance. 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. We would be grateful for any donation you can provide. Please see the attached donation form. Also note that all donations are tax deductible.

It would mean a lot to our school if we could have your support. However, the benefits reach beyond our school and can help your company as well. The first benefit is increased publicity. Our school receives a great deal of repeated coverage as it is. For example, several local and national news stations, newspapers, and magazines covered our school after we were named America's Best High School by U.S. News and World Report. More recently, we were again featured because of the many Intel Science Talent Search semifinalists and finalists from our school. This solar panel initiative will surely be covered by various media, and your donation ensures that you will be part of the publicity. Additionally, companies contributing \$1,000 or more will be recognized by having their name and information engraved in a commemorative donor wall with an interactive, digital display prominently located at TJHSST. Contributions of higher amounts will have larger plaques on the display.

The second benefit is a bolstered public image for your company. The public would view your donation



not only as environmentally-conscious, but also supportive of education, science, and technology. Even a small donation of \$1,000 would go a long way in publicly representing your company's devotion to quality education and learning opportunities for this country's youth. This is, of course, not to mention your foresight into the future of technology, renewable energy, and climate change.

The Thomas Jefferson Solar Panel Initiative has already raised approximately \$5,000. With your support, we will be able to achieve our goals. We are looking forward to your assistance as we move forward with this project. If there is any additional information we can provide, please call Varun Bansal at (703) 757-0772 or our club sponsor, Mrs. Amanda Hurowitz, at [Amanda.Hurowitz@fcps.edu](mailto:Amanda.Hurowitz@fcps.edu) (phone: 703-750-8300).

For more information, please visit [tjspi.110mb.com](http://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.

Thank you, and we look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,

Varun Bansal  
Chairman, TJSPI

Seth Kolker  
Secretary, TJSPI

Amanda Hurowitz  
Sponsor, TJSPI

Hadan Kauffman  
Sponsor, TJSPI

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



## The Thomas Jefferson Solar Panel Initiative Corporate and Business Donation Form

Your tax-deductible donation will go towards purchasing and installing solar panels at TJHSST. Please make checks payable to "TJHSST." *Please use the "Individual Donation" form if contributing as an individual.*

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### Section I: Company Information

- a) Name of Business: \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Address<sup>1</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_  
# street city state zip
- c) Public Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please include area code)
- d) Website: \_\_\_\_\_

### Section II: Contact Information

- a) Name of Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
last first
- b) Position in Company: \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Section III: Donation Information

- a) This donation consists of (check all that apply):
- Monetary funds
  - Equipment (solar panel specific)
  - Other supplies
  - Services
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b1) If your donation consists of funds, please fill out the following:  
 Please note the amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 How will this amount be transferred to the TJSPI (circle)?  
 Cash      Check      Other \_\_\_\_\_

b2) If your donation consists of equipment, supplies, or other material goods, please fill out the following: \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> Please write in the address of the company location closest to the Washington Metropolitan Region.

Description of goods being donated: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated total value of goods being donated: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

How will your contribution be brought to TJHSST (i.e. shipping):

- Commercial Shipping/Delivery
- Personal Delivery (your company delivers)
- Pick-up from company location (the TJSPI picks it up)
- Other

b3) If your donation consists of services, please fill out the following:

Description of services being provided: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated value of services: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

b4) If your type of contribution has not been specified, please fill out the following:

Description of contribution: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated value of contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Section IV: Receipt and Recognition**

a) Please enter the *total amount* being donated, including the estimated value of material donations, services, or other non-monetary contributions: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

b) Please check ( ✓ ) this box if you would like a receipt of your donation:

c) Do you allow the TJSPI to include the name of your company in an official list of donors at the completion of this project? This list may be published in newspapers and other media.

Yes                      No

d) If your total contribution amount **totals \$1000 or more**, please write below the text you would like to be displayed on the donor wall (e.g. Acme Company)<sup>2</sup>. Check box if not applicable or if you do not

<sup>2</sup> Three lines maximum; engraving will appear as you write it (including capitalization and spacing)

want your plaque displayed on the donor wall.

_____
_____
_____

-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!***



## The Thomas Jefferson Solar Panel Initiative

### *Information Sheet*

#### **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 Mrs. 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 first introducing solar power infrastructure and then ultimately powering the entire school from solar power via incremental increases in solar power production and photovoltaic system output.

#### **TJSPI Goals**

To achieve energy independence for TJ, first one must install the framework of the solar panel system, as well as solar photovoltaic panels. Thus, our current goal is to obtain an initial, on-grid solar power system. An off-grid system and/or full energy independence are not yet the goals 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 this area, 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. The reduction in energy usage would also free school funds to be redirected to other underfunded programs. Additionally, solar panels at TJ would provide a working model for study by students taking courses in energy systems. Solar panels would also provide an energy backup to ensure closings do not occur due to power failures, as in the past. Finally, solar panels at TJHSST would keep the school on the forefront of cutting-edge technology – appropriate for a school of science and technology.

#### **Our Plan**

Though student-driven, this project is being guided by Mrs. Amanda Hurowitz and Mr. Hadan Kauffman, members of the TJHSST Faculty. Additionally, the project has been approved by Dr. Evan Glazer, Principal of TJHSST. 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. We have already raised over a quarter of the necessary funds, attracted media attention, and received backing and endorsement from major organizations (e.g. The Earth Day Network).

#### **More Information**

If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact us at [the.tjspi@gmail.com](mailto:the.tjspi@gmail.com), or visit our website at [tjspi.110mb.com](http://tjspi.110mb.com).



## 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](http://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](http://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.