

**Wednesday, May 23, 2018**

**New Solar Finance Working Group Launched to Facilitate Fresh Sources of Cost Effective Capital for the Industry's Growth**

BOULDER, COLORADO – A new working group, the Solar Finance Council (SFC), launched today to focus on ways to lower the cost of capital and broaden the investor base and thus the deployment of solar and other sustainable technologies. The working group will be led by Mike Mendelsohn as executive director. Mr. Mendelsohn previously led the Solar Energy Industries Association's (SEIA) work in project finance and capital markets. Prior to SEIA, he established the Solar Access to Public Capital (SAPC) working group at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

“To date, investment for solar project development has come from a small number of banks and financial entities, largely those that play in the ‘tax-equity’ arena,” said Mendelsohn. “To meet the climate challenge before us, solar will need to scale rapidly while government support through the investment tax credit will decline to very low levels, starting in 2020. Accordingly, the industry needs to find new and larger sources of capital, and to do so, improve investor confidence that solar assets produce energy and long-term cash flows as originally projected.”

To facilitate its mission, SFC will research, analyze and distribute high-quality data and other industry content targeting the investment community and will convene industry members to solve challenges to broader investment in underserved sectors of the economy such as commercial real estate, low and moderate-income households, and untapped geographic markets.

“To meet the extraordinary challenge before us, solar needs to be on every rooftop in the country,” Mendelsohn continued. “That is going to require a lot of investment capital as well as critical cost reductions through improvements in consistency and quality in project development. The SFC is designed to facilitate the cross-functional industry organization necessary to make that happen.”

SFC is an independent working group that intends to continue the work and mission of the original SAPC taskforce. Membership and advisory board participation is open to all industry stakeholders. If you are interested in participating, please contact us at [mike@solarfinancecouncil.org](mailto:mike@solarfinancecouncil.org).

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