



Solmetric News

August 21, 2009

Here is a quick update about Solmetric and the Solmetric SunEye™:

Shade Measurement Webinars for US and Canada

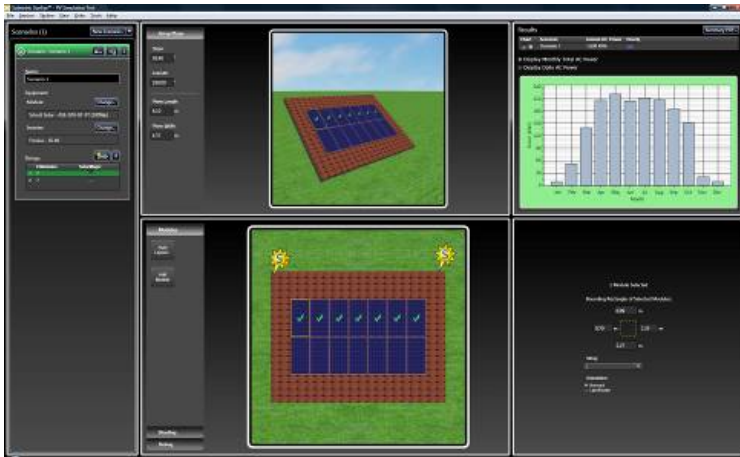
Our popular 90-minute webinar, titled “Shade Measurement Tips and Techniques” continues next week. We have scheduled new sessions for Tuesday August 25th and Thursday September 3rd. This session is about half theory and background, and half SunEye user training. It includes a live SunEye demo and lots of time for Questions and Answers. Please check the homepage at www.solmetric.com for the latest descriptions and dates.

Orientation app note under development

Some issues about orientation – declination, azimuth, reading the compass, etc. – can cause confusion, even for the most experienced SunEye users. Solmetric has an application note in process that helps unravel these mysteries. We have a draft copy available on request; the final version will be available in a few weeks.

Solmetric PVDesigner™ Status

Solmetric has been developing a new PV design software tool, called Solmetric PVDesigner. It enables fast, accurate module layout and estimation of AC kWh energy production. The tool takes advantage of SunEye data and provides partial shading energy calculations, based on which modules have shading for each hour of the year. We are very excited about this product and are receiving very positive feedback. We are currently doing beta testing, and checking the results versus other prediction techniques and real world performance, and we are making great progress. But we’ve decided to adjust our introduction schedule, to focus our resources on implementing some key features before making it widely available. We now expect that the trial version will be available in October 2009.



Solmetric Online Tools Gaining in popularity

Solmetric has two online tools that have become quite popular. You may want to keep them in mind as you work on your next deal.


Roof Azimuth Tool. Many SunEye users ask the best way to measure roof Azimuth. It can be a little tricky. We've just added an on-line tool to the "Resources" section of our web page that can help. You enter your address and a Google Earth™ window opens. Then you zoom into your roof, then draw a line in the direction your roof faces. You can use the roof ridge or edge of the building as a guide. Then the tool displays the true azimuth. This is an alternative to measuring the magnetic azimuth using the compass on-site. Below is an example of the tool in action. Note the red arrow pointing and the azimuth reading in the lower left. Visit www.solmetric.com and select Roof Azimuth Tool under Resources.

Welcome to the Solmetric Roof Azimuth Measurement Tool.

1. Locate Roof


Address:

2. Measure Roof

 Click this button to put your mouse pointer into "measure mode". By clicking and dragging the mouse along the roof edge, draw a line along the edge of the roof in the direction you want to measure.

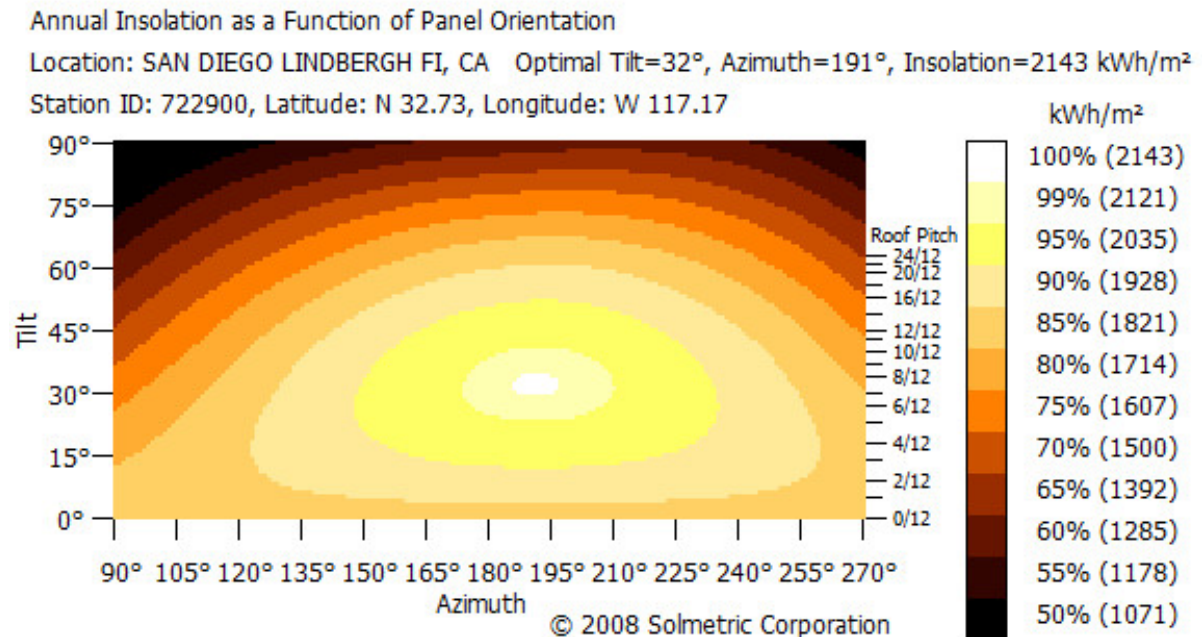
3. See Results

The measured true azimuth direction is:
229.4°



The image shows a Google Earth satellite view of a residential property. A red arrow is drawn along the edge of a large, multi-faceted roof, indicating the direction of the azimuth measurement. The interface includes standard Google Earth navigation controls like a compass, zoom in/out buttons, and a street view pegman. The text '© 2008 Tele Atlas' and 'Google Earth' are visible at the bottom of the map area.

Annual Insolation Lookup Tool. This tool lets you specify the closest NREL weather station and view the annual insolation (incident solar radiation) as a function of tilt and azimuth. You can also enter a tilt and azimuth and see how it compares to optimum (tilt-orientation-factor). An example is shown below. Visit www.solmetric.com and select Annual Insolation under Resources.



Solmetric at Solar Power International Booth #1661

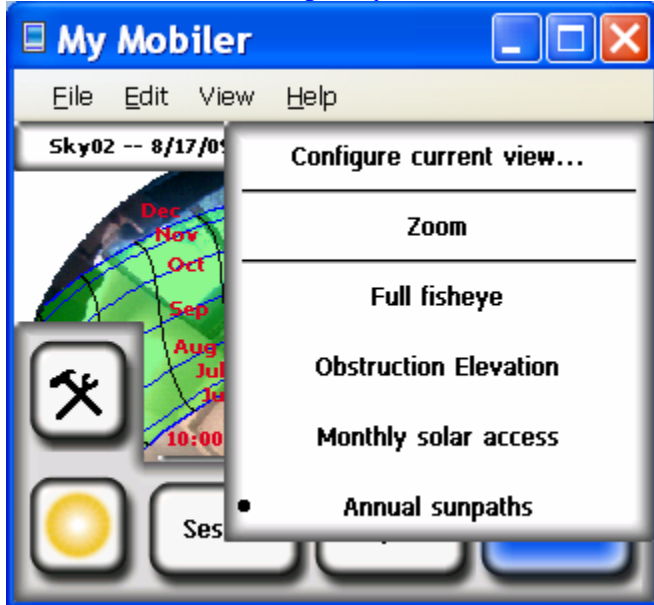
Solmetric will have booth number 1661 at the upcoming Solar Power International trade show in Anaheim California. Please come visit us at our booth! For more information about the show, please see <http://www.solarpowerinternational.com/>.

SunEye demo and training tools

Do you ever wish you could demonstrate the SunEye in training classes? Here are some tools that may be of interest. First is an “artificial sky” that can enable you to make indoor measurements. It is sometimes called a Studio-in-a-Box, and it diffuses the light so the SunEye will interpret it as sky. You can add trees or buildings to make an example skyline. The photo below shows the setup we use at trade shows.



Another tool is software that allows you to project the SunEye screen onto your computer display, enabling it to appear on an overhead projector display in training. The software is available for free, and so far, it seems to work very well for me. An example screenshot is shown below. Go to <http://mymobiler.com/> for the download.



Twitter anyone?

For any of you interested in Twitter, I am enjoying it as a forum for “solar conversation.” There is a lot of solar tweeting going on, and if you are interested, feel free to follow me, “phoberg”, or other solar industry twitter sources:

- “REWorld” by Renewable Energy World
- “homepower” by Home Power magazine
- “energysection” who is focused on renewable energy resources and news
- “sandia” from Sandia National Labs
- “deep patel” from gogreensolar.

We hope to hear from you soon, however you like to communicate.