

## The Terranaut Almanacs Series | *Your Audience Invitation*

Presented by: **The EarthShot Foundation** Topic: **Levelizing the Field with Renewable Energy**  
 Date: Thursday, July 28, 2011 Time: 12:00 (noon) to 3:45pm (lunch provided)  
 Location: **Council on Foreign Relations** 1777 F Street NW; WASH, DC 20006  
 RSVP here: [Katerina Triantafyllou, Terranaut Program Manager](#)

In collaboration with award-winning film director, [Steve Dorst](#), The [EarthShot Foundation](#) introduces the fourth event in the Terranaut Almanacs Series. Terranauts gather throughout the year in Washington, DC, Boston and San Francisco, to explore issues revolving around energy, economy and environment. Top thought-leaders and decision-makers join their peers to discuss these issues within the context of **accuracy, competency, and readiness for change and scale**.

Terranauts aspire to an ambitious thesis – **we already know what we need to do**. And where we may not know and have not acted, or disagree, the series invites participants to set forth their positions and facts. Please join us for this unique and engaging experience – a filmed, collegial, moderated, Socratic dialogue before a small and informed audience.

### The Terranauts and Their Mission

#### Roundtable Participants:

**Moderator** – Brett Prior, *Greentech Media Research*  
 Austin Brown – *National Renewable Energy Laboratory*  
 Chris Cameron – *Sandia National Laboratory*  
 Richard Caperton – *Senior Policy Analyst, CAP*  
 Mark Culpepper – *CTO, Sun Edison*  
 Kenneth Ditzel – *Charles River Associates*  
 Ramesh Ramamoorthy – *DOE, SunShot Initiative*  
 Chris Robine, CEO, SPG  
 Alfonso Velosa – *Gartner Media Research*  
 Chase Weir – *CEO, Distributed Sun*  
 Ken Zweibel - *GWU Solar Institute*

#### Levelizing the Field with Renewable Energy

From greenhorns to green gurus, the “insiders” vernacular of lifecycle cost analysis and power project finance is becoming more popular. The levelized cost of energy (LCOE) measurement is a useful and influential – though sometimes misunderstood – tool.

A more rigorous look at the potential of LCOE for policy and market decision-making reveals a powerful device for better intelligence, and a framework for standardization and scale. The possibilities are myriad in scope. However, usability and expert usage of LCOE requires a broader discussion of its legacy and conventional applications, some consensus about its constituent parts, and reliability of data inputs and outputs. These concepts pull us uncomfortably away from dollar yield and per watt methods. In order to use them effectively, old questions must be asked in new ways. The panelists will seek to provide the answers.

### Suggested Readings



[Should Solar Photovoltaics Be Deployed Sooner Because of Long Operating Life?](#)

By Ken Zweibel, *GW Solar Institute*, © 2010 Elsevier



[Renewable Energy Project Financing: Impacts of the Financial Crisis and Federal Legislation](#)

By Paul Schwabe, *Karlynn Cory*, and *James Newcomb* © 2009 NREL



[Assumptions and the Levelized Cost of Energy for Photovoltaics](#)

By Seth B. Darling, *Fengqi You*, *Thomas Veselka*, and *Alfonso Velosa*. © 2011 NREL

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### Optional Readings

Readings from *EarthShot Foundation* [request copy via email](#)