

## WHO'S WHO | in Green

### DAVID G. SCHIEREN

*EmPower Solar*

David is CEO of EmPower Solar, a leading solar engineering and installation company serving Long Island's residential and commercial markets. Schieren co-founded the company in 2003 with the goal of 'empowering' people to use clean energy to control energy costs, clean the air, end oil dependency and dramatically improve the standard of living.

Schieren is responsible for leading and managing the company, with a focus on business development, strategy, client rela-

tionship management, corporate finance, recruiting and corporate culture.

He works closely with his business partner and COO, Greg Sachs, and on leading and growing the company.

The first and most important thing we discuss with clients about going solar is that it's financially profitable, Schieren said.

"Going solar is a very wise investment, providing annual returns of up to 20%, and we have developed a number of tools to help homeowners, businesses and non-profits analyze the costs and benefits in detail," he said. "Also, there are a number of financing options available that enable clients to go solar with zero down, and start saving on a monthly basis."

In addition to the financial message, Schieren discusses the big picture about the



significance of solar energy in terms of energy independence, the environment and public health.

"EmPower is on a mission to make solar the dominant energy technology,"

he said. "We engage our clients to join this mission, while simultaneously making a great investment that is helping society. It's a win, win, win."

As an advocate, Schieren conducts out-

reach to build support for clean energy among political, community, business and religious leaders, and the public at large. He has testified before the United States Congress Science Committee about the Solar Decathlon, solar energy and hydrogen fuel, and has been involved with numerous TV, print, Internet, radio and documentary interviews.

Schieren is a North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) Photovoltaic Installer. He earned a master's degree in energy management from the New York Institute of Technology. He also earned a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Vermont.

He launched his career as an institutional equity advisor at Merrill Lynch where he sold Japanese equities to large United States-based investors.

Schieren co-founded the Solar Decathlon Alumni Association that is building an alumni community and advocacy group from the participants in the US Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon bi-annual competition. He also participates in several key organizations to help advance renewable energy in the region, including the Long Island Solar Energy Industry Association.

EmPower Solar in Island Park has installed more than 350 residential, commercial and non-profit solar power systems in the tri-state area. The company has consulted on many clean energy projects throughout the country, including solar powered hydrogen fueling systems and electric vehicle charging infrastructure.