

## **Charles F. Gay - Biography**

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[Dr. Charlie Gay](#) is a subject matter expert in renewable energy technologies with over 45 years of experience. Currently, he serves on the Sandia National Laboratory Energy and Homeland Security External Advisory Board. He retired in November 2019 from his position as Director of the DOE Solar Energy Technologies Office, which he led from 2016–2019. In the mid-1990s he served as Director of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL).

Dr. Gay has extensive private-sector experience, including past tenures as president of applied solar for Applied Materials, chairman of the technology advisory board for SunPower Corp, president and chief executive officer of ASE Americas, managing director and co-founder of UNISUN, president and chief operating officer of Siemens Solar Industries, and president of ARCO Solar. At ARCO Solar he built the world's first commercial-scale photovoltaics (PV) manufacturing factory in 1979. He was also part of the team to build the world's first substation-tied electric utility PV power plant. This 1megawatt installation was more than 100 times larger than any prior grid-connected PV plant. Dr. Gay is also creator of the Greenstar Foundation, an organization that delivers solar power with internet access to villages in the developing world. And he has advised and continues to advise many renewable energy startup companies. Dr. Gay has a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from the University of California, Riverside. He holds numerous patents for solar cell and photovoltaic module construction, won the Gold Medal for Achievement from the World Renewable Energy Congress, and was elected to the U.S. National Academy of Engineering in 2013.