



Georgia to Double Its Solar Capacity



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I had the opportunity to join PSC Commissioner Tim Echols and his Co-Host John Noel last week on their radio show, Energy Matters ([Listen: Episode 31](#)). We discussed a number of topics, including the trend of NFL and College teams who make it to championship games coming from some of the most sustainable stadiums in the country. (As a Falcon's fan, It's only right that I pause here and declare "This is our year!") And, of course, we talked

about how GA Solar serves the state's solar interest through education and advocacy. [READ MORE](#)

IRP UPDATE: Regulators Order Georgia Power to Double its Solar

The solar market in Georgia – and the entire U.S. South – just got a big boost.

In a meeting approving Georgia Power's long-term (IRP) plan, the Georgia Public Service Commission (GPSC) has required that the utility procure 2.21 GW of solar...a sharp increase from Georgia Power's earlier plans to source only 1 GW.



Georgia Power has been required to solicit 2.21 GW of solar and 80 MW of energy storage to come online over the next five years. This is the largest single acquisition of solar in Georgia's history and will double the state's installed capacity. [LEARN MORE](#)

Georgia Power Seeks \$2.2 Billion Rate Increase on Customer Bills

Georgia Power customers face higher monthly bills if elected state regulators



approve the utility's request for a \$2.2 billion rate hike spread over three years....

(And) that increase isn't the only one Georgia consumers could see in the next few months and years.

The hike doesn't include expected bill increases once Georgia Power's troubled and over-budget Plant Vogtle nuclear expansion project is completed. Both new units now are supposed to be running by late 2022.

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What is Rooftop Solar Really Worth?

Environment Texas Research and Policy Center and Frontier Group have released a report: **The True Value of Solar: Measuring The Benefits of Rooftop Solar Power**, which calls on the Public Utility Commission of Texas (TPUC) to promote solar more actively than it does and has, with a focus on rooftop solar. The study recognizes that, for most, the previously recognized benefits of solar have begun and ended at renewable energy, and by analyzing the full scope of benefits that customer-sited solar brings to citizens, the grid and communities at large, more effective policies promoting solar will be put into place.



The report summarizes its conclusions in a flowchart-style graph split initially between grid and societal benefits... [LEARN MORE](#)

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More U.S. Jobs in Solar Than All Fossil Fuels Put Together



...According to the recently published 2019 United States Energy Employment Report (USEER 2019), coal provides one of the lowest number of energy jobs in the power industry. When it comes to grid-related energy jobs, solar is the clear winner, providing more employment than coal, natural

gas, and oil put together. Here's the breakdown:

1/ Solar jobs: 242,343; 2/ Natural gas jobs: 112,685; 3/ Coal jobs: 86,202; 4) ALL fossil fuel jobs together: 211,469

FUN FACT: if you include part-time solar workers, USEER says there were another 92,649 people working in the solar industry, bringing the total solar

More Solar Power Coming to South Georgia

Move over coal, more utility-scale solar power will be coming online in South and Middle Georgia at least 10,000 acres of solar will be coming to the area through large fields with 200-, 400-, 500-acre tracks. This big swath of solar will deploy over the next three years.



Vice-Chairman of the Georgia Public Service Commission Tim Echols says that "you'll see about the same amount in three years again and then it will start to taper off. So, the next six years will be the biggest solar deployment in Georgia's history." [READ MORE](#)

GEORGIA SOLAR ENERGY ASSOCIATION - MISSION

To advance the sustainable economic and environmental benefits of solar energy for Georgia through education, advocacy, community and industry support.

Never Mind the Reason, Republicans are Shifting on Solar Power



Georgia Power is famous for getting what it wants in and around the state Capitol. Witness the Public Service Commission's 2017 vote to continue construction on two new nuclear power reactors at Plant Vogtle, despite delays, cost overruns, and PSC staff reports that the project had become uneconomical.

Being the party of business requires a tight alliance, ruling Republicans have argued in the past – as Democrats did before them. But last Tuesday, the interests of Georgia Power and the Georgia GOP diverged – in a way that makes for both good policy and good politics. [READ MORE](#)

Solar Panel (Hydroponic Greenhouse) "Farm" Grows 17,000 Tons of Food Without Soil, Pesticides, Fossil Fuels or Groundwater

To grow crops; land, water, and energy are needed. These resources are finite. In 2010, Sundrop Farms opened its first pilot facility in Port Augusta, South Australia. Located in the middle of a desert, it would have been impossible to grow food in the area using a traditional farming method. But Sundrop is changing the game. It is growing crops in the desert: It is combining seawater and sunlight to grow food in the middle of the desert.



With this, climate change, biotech company land grabs, drought, floods, and pestilence are no longer a concern for Sundrop Farms. Sundrop is now using coconut husks, 23,000 mirrors to reflect solar power, and desalinated water on its 20-hectare farm to grow food at the Port Augusta farm. [LEARN MORE](#)



Please consider making a donation to the Georgia Solar Energy Association. Your support helps to advance the solar industry in Georgia. Thank You!

Shout it Out From the Rooftops: Solar Delivers Far More Than Renewable Energy



Contrary to what many utilities would have you believe, rooftop solar users are givers, not takers. How exactly to define the value of rooftop solar energy is a question that policymakers, regulators and utilities have been grappling with since the dawn of distributed solar power generation.

A new study from Environment America Research and Policy Center, and Frontier Group, *The True Value of*

Solar: Measuring The Benefits of Rooftop Solar Power, lays out the many benefits that rooftop solar panels deliver beyond the household beneath them. [LEARN MORE](#)

Emissions Decline for GA and Southeast But Progress Will Slow

In its report, “Tracking Decarbonization in the Southeast: 2019 Generation and Carbon Emissions Report,” the (Southern Alliance for Clean Energy) notes that emissions from electric utilities have begun to fall. Between 2010 and 2017, carbon emissions decreased 28 percent and are projected to drop by 36 percent from 2010 levels by 2025



In Georgia, coal accounted for 47 percent of power generated in 2010 but by 2025 that percentage was expected to drop to 18 percent while gas increased from 23 percent in 2010 to 39 percent in 2025. South Carolina saw a similar shift in energy production from 55 percent coal in 2010 to 29 percent predicted in 2025 and gas increasing from 11.5 percent to 25 percent between 2010 and 2025. [LEARN MORE](#)

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Can Energy Producing Buildings Work in Swampy South? Atlanta is Trying



A two-story Atlanta building designed to produce more energy than it consumes is poised to open in early fall, a crucial test case of whether a large-scale environmentally-advanced project can achieve its goals in the heat and humidity of the Southeast.

The Georgia Institute of Technology and its partner the Kendeda Fund, a private grant foundation, are finishing up a 37,000 square-foot campus building. The building, which will have classrooms and teaching labs, was designed to be certified as a so-called “living building,” meaning it will generate a surplus of electricity and that it can maintain a self-sufficient water supply creating a comfortable environment out of Atlanta’s hot and humid air can be an energy-intensive task in conventionally designed structures. [LEARN MORE](#)

Will Waste From Retiring Solar Panels Overrun our Future Landfills?

As solar continues to increase its share of global energy production, people are starting to wonder what we’ll do with all the panels when they reach their end of life. How big a problem will this become? And how will solar panel waste compare to other types of electricity generation?



In 2018, the US installed 10.6 gigawatts (GW) of solar [1], which weighed about 689,000 tons. In 30-40 years, when it’s time to retire these installations, we’ll have to do something with all this solar panel waste. How big of a problem is this going to be? [LEARN MORE](#)

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Cities, Counties, Come One Come All!

Solar Soars in South Carolina With "Energy Freedom Act"

South Carolina's new "*Energy Freedom Act*" is aptly titled. Signed into law (last) May following unanimous votes in the South Carolina House and Senate, the mandate commands the state's Public Service Commission (PSC) to give ratepayers more choice in their consumption and solar developers more leverage in a regulated monopoly. In that way, the law loosens the belt on a solar market restricted by arbitrary policies and dominated by two of the country's biggest investor-owned utilities (IOUs)....



In addition to making more room for solar today, the law all but guarantees energy freedom is a part of the state's future. Utilities must plan and prepare for the introduction of more distributed energy resources (DERs) and additional solar capacity within their integrated resource plans (IRPs). In short, the Energy Freedom Act is a complete overhaul for solar in South Carolina. [LEARN MORE](#)

How Distributed Energy is Reshaping the Energy Landscape



Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) have set the stage for profound changes in the way power is produced, stored and used across power grids.

Today, software controls and DERs, including rooftop and community solar, behind-the-meter energy storage, intelligent homes and grid integrated buildings, are giving grid operators a way to rethink their business and operational models that offer both new sources of revenue and increased resiliency. [LEARN MORE](#)





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