



GA Solar

GEORGIA SOLAR ENERGY ASSOCIATION

June, 2016



FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAIR

Rooftop Solar is very much in the news. With the passage of HB 57 in Georgia in 2015, we thought we'd take a look at how rooftop solar is faring around the country.

Also, Ga Solar is taking the lead to provide a more comprehensive and sensible permitting process for Georgia local governments. We understand solar is new for many municipalities, and it is our hope that our recommended permitting process will reduce costs and save time when embarking on future solar projects. Stay tuned for more information on that front.

Please reach out to me with questions or comments. And be sure to visit our website at www.gasolar.org or call us at (404) 522-4775. Sharon Lee, Chair

Rooftop Solar Benefits the Grid

Rooftop Solar is Booming in U.S. Cities

- (Brookings Institution)

Prices for solar panels have fallen dramatically. Residential solar installations surged by 66 percent between 2014 and 2015 helping to ensure that solar accounted for 30 percent of all new U.S. electric generating capacity. And for that matter, recent analyses conclude that the cost of residential solar is often comparable to the average price of power on the utility grid, a threshold known as grid parity.



So, what's not to like? Rooftop solar is a total winner, right? [Read More](#)

GEORGIA SOLAR ADOPTS
A MODEL EXPEDITED
PERMITTING PROCESS
FOR GEORGIA LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS



With 159 counties and 535 incorporated cities and towns, the current solar permitting landscape in Georgia is fragmented and confusing, causing added time and cost to install solar energy systems. And because solar is relatively new to Georgia local governments, permitting solar often gets lumped in with existing schemes for accessory structures and buildings that don't translate well to solar.

Therefore Ga Solar is leading the effort to bring a more comprehensive and sensible permitting process and *best practices* to Georgia local governments. For residents and developers, a standard, expedited permitting process will help reduce installation times and soft costs of solar. For local governments, a model solar permitting process will serve as a resource to ensure safe, compliant installations while reducing permit processing times and facilitating local economic development. Contact us at admin@gasolar.org for more information.

Arizona Negotiates Rooftop Solar Cease-Fire

Will Arizona negotiations for rooftop solar be model for rest of the country?

- (The Arizona Republic)

The rooftop-solar industry and lawmakers negotiated a cease-fire of sorts at the end of April, dropping their competing ballot efforts to change state laws on solar subsidies.



At the same time, Arizona Solar Energy Freedom Act Chairwoman Kris Mayes signed paperwork to withdraw the initiative she had filed. Mayes said the agreement creates an opportunity for mediated settlement talks to preserve solar with buy-in from Arizona Public Service Co. and, hopefully, other energy companies.

"This can be a model for the rest of the country," she said. "This is a big deal." [Read More](#)

SAVE THE DATE

8th ANNUAL * October 20, 2016
SOUTHERN SOLAR SUMMIT

Thursday, October 20, 2016

(please note corrected date!!)

GTRI Conference Center @ Georgia Tech



Be sure to connect with Georgia Solar through our Facebook page. We post articles, daily, on the solar industry as it relates to Georgia, the southeast, and the nation.

Georgia Solar Mission

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

SAVE THE DATE

JOIN GA SOLAR ... AND HELP EXPAND THE FOOTPRINT OF SOLAR IN GEORGIA!

Join us on Thursday, June 23rd, for our quarterly Member Meeting; meet your solar colleagues and learn about the solar industry in Georgia.

Become a member and partner with us to provide a webinar for your staff and/or constituents on what they need to know about how solar energy works and options for installation.



[**CLICK HERE**](#)
for Membership Information

SOLARIZE ATHENS SIGNS UP 68 PROPERTIES SO FAR...

With 729 sign-ups, Solarize Athens surpassed Solarize Tybee, which had 584 sign-ups, to become the more popular of the two Georgia programs. Sign-ups for Solarize Athens ended on April 30, after the program was extended for one month earlier in the year.



With 375kW contracted so far with **Alternative Energy Southeast**, the selected contractor for the program, the actual number of solar installations in Athens-Clarke, Madison and Oconee counties is expected to increase as residents and business owners have until the end of June to sign a contract and obtain any approvals required. **Learn More**



Photo by: Nathan L. Hanks, Jr.

MARINE CORPS BASE IN ALBANY BREAKS GROUND ON 44 MW SOLAR FACILITY

Georgia Power will build, own, operate and maintain the 44-megawatt solar facility. The solar panels will be built on about 150 acres, which are scheduled to be completed in early 2017, according to Renewable Energy Program Office, DON, officials. The Honorable Dennis V. McGinn, assistant secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations Environment, stated the project, the second collaboration with Georgia Power, will help to enhance the energy security of MCLB Albany.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Berry College town hall focuses on clean energy future; plans to be carbon neutral by 2050

- (Rome News-Tribune)

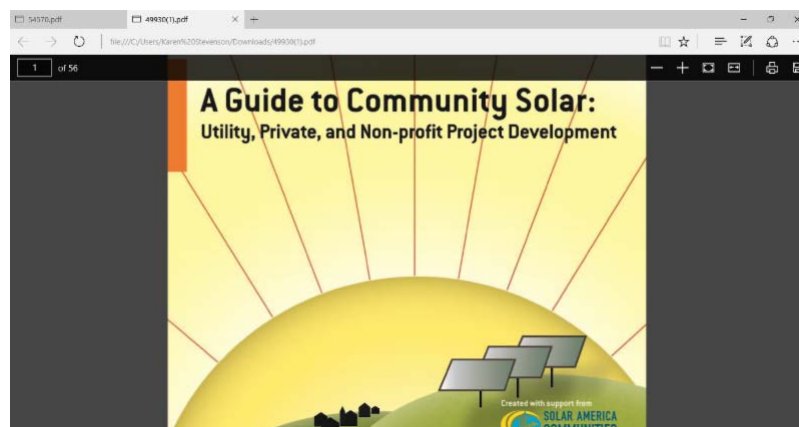


Eddie Elsberry, Berry's director of environmental compliance and sustainability, kicked off a town hall meeting to consider a clean energy future, revealing the college's desire to go green. Dana

Redden, GSEA Education Committee Chair, participated in a panel on clean energy.

[Learn More](#)

RESOURCES



**U.S. DEPT. OF ENERGY:
A Guide to
Community Shared
Solar: Utility,
Private, and
Nonprofit Project
Development**

What is "[Community Solar](#)?" Click here to [LEARN MORE](#).

CONSIDER A DONATION!

**PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A
DONATION TO THE
GEORGIA SOLAR ENERGY
ASSOCIATION!**



**Your support helps to advance the solar industry in Georgia.
Thank You!**

IN THE NEWS...

SOLAR in the SOUTHEAST



Georgia Power on list of top 10 solar providers - (wrbl, 4/13)

**Utility-backed amendment gets nod from Florida Supreme Court
- (Tampa Bay Times, 3/31)**

Old power gives way to new power in south Georgia - (AJC, 4/28)

Israeli company celebrates opening of Glynn County plant, first in U.S.

- (The Florida Times Union, 6/03)



SOLAR on the NATIONAL STAGE

Some states may be making a big mistake about rooftop solar - (Wash Post, 5/26)

Utility customers save \$192 million thanks to efficiency and rooftop solar

- (Greentech Media, 5/31)

How renewables are competing in the wholesale market without mandates

- (Greentech Media, 5/24)

GOP majority states benefit from solar investment - (Assoc Press, 5/06)

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Georgia Solar Energy Association

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