



**GA Solar**  
GEORGIA SOLAR ENERGY ASSOCIATION

## Solar on the Move in Georgia...



### From the Desk of the Chairman

With Georgia's solar market ranked 4th in the U.S. and job growth up 23% in 2016, solar is on the move in Georgia. Now a new solar bill (HB 431) aims to remove barriers to rooftop solar, protect consumers, and unlock the free-market potential of solar promising continued growth for years to come.

JOIN US for our upcoming events: WISE tomorrow (!) and *Solar Swings* in April (see below), and become a part of the clean energy revolution sweeping Georgia.

Please consider donating to the Georgia Solar Energy Association or becoming a member to support the cause of bringing more solar to Georgia.

Don Moreland, Chairman

## Bill Aims to Remove Barriers to Wider Solar Adoption

### HB 431...

HB 431 will improve the outlook for distributed generation (rooftop) solar, create thousands of jobs, protect consumers, promote economic development, and increase Georgia's energy security.



**GaSEIA** is pleased Representative Buzz Brockway introduced HB 431, which ensures customers' right to manage their electric bills with onsite solar and ensure that solar customers are not subject to extreme and unjustifiable costs.

HB 431 makes commercial system size limits more reasonable considering economic and technological changes since the Co- Gen Act was passed in 2001. [READ MORE](#)

[Click Here to View the HB 431 Legislation](#)

## 2nd Annual "WISE" Women in Solar Energy Event



**SOLAR SISTER**  
Founder & CEO,  
Katherine Lucey,  
to give Keynote for Georgia's  
Women in Solar Energy Event



**TOMORROW!**  
**TUESDAY, FEB 21ST, 2-5PM**

@ Blue Mark Studios  
892 Jefferson Street, NW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30318

The Georgia Solar Energy Association's 2nd Annual WISE Event celebrates the economic gains women in Georgia, the U.S. and worldwide are making with solar industry growth.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER](#)



**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!**



## 2016 Solar Advocate Award



Congratulations to Shan Arora,  
Winner of the 2016 Solar Advocate  
Award

The Georgia Solar Energy Association awarded its 2016 Solar Advocate Award to Shan Arora, program manager for Southface, at its annual holiday celebration on Thursday, December 15th.

Arora created and manages [www.GeorgiaEnergyData.org](http://www.GeorgiaEnergyData.org), an interactive website that

provides current information on Georgia's growing solar assets. He also conducts the annual Clean Energy Industry Census that shows the growth and economic contribution of Georgia's clean energy industry. [READ MORE](#)

## Georgia's Solar Market Ranked #4 in 2016

Georgia's Solar Market Ranked #4 in the U.S. for 2016 according to PV Magazine



According to PV Magazine, this was a truly bipolar year for the U.S. solar industry, full of dizzying heights and crushing lows. This year, more than any before it, calls for the metaphor of the "solar coaster".

Even though final data is not yet in, 2016 was clearly boom time for U.S. solar. While the market has grown every year in the 21st century, by the time final numbers are published the volume of the U.S. market is expected to have nearly doubled from just over 7 GW in 2015 to 13-14 GW in 2016. [READ MORE](#)

## #CLEAN ENERGY JOBS



**Solar Power  
Advocacy Network**

## 2017 NATIONAL SOLAR JOBS CENSUS

Recently, **The Solar Foundation** released their latest **National Solar Jobs Census**, which shows there are more than 260,000 Americans working in the solar industry today. Last year alone, the industry added 51,218 jobs, which averages out to about one job every 10 minutes! One out of every 50 new American jobs last year was in the #solar industry!

**Excerpted from Solar Jobs by State, 2016, Appendix A**

State	2016 Solar Jobs	2015 Solar Jobs	Year/Year Growth	Solar Jobs Rank	Solar Jobs Per Capita Rank
GA	3,924	3,185	23%	16	35

**#CLEANENERGYJOBS**

## 2016 BRIGHT YEAR FOR SOLAR IN GEORGIA



### 2016 - A Bright Year for Solar in Georgia

By Shan Arora, Southface

When Southface started building a database to track Georgia's installed solar capacity in 2012, we were hunting for kilowatts (kW). We sifted through hundreds of documents; no

installation was too small. If we identified a 0.01 kW solar attic fan, we added it to our tally. We only had six solar projects that were one megawatt (MW) or more, none exceeded 2 MWs and the vast majority of the installations were on rooftops. We built a website to showcase this solar capacity data, and more, called [GeorgiaEnergyData.org](http://GeorgiaEnergyData.org). It showed that by the end of 2012, Georgia had 23 MW of installed solar capacity.

Four years later, [GeorgiaEnergyData.org](http://GeorgiaEnergyData.org) shows that we have more than 1,100 MW of installed solar capacity. The Peach State is likely one of the first 10 to reach one gigawatt (GW). Arizona, California, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina and Massachusetts were well past this milestone at the beginning of 2016. Texas and Utah likely passed it sometime during 2016, and Georgia passed 1 GW in December. [READ MORE](#)

## Free Online Solar Purchasing Guide

### New Standardized Solar Consumer Information Tool Released by SEIA

People who want to purchase or lease a residential solar system are faced with a welter of unfamiliar and sometimes conflicting information. Often, deciphering it all is an overwhelming process, especially if the home owner is soliciting bids from two or more solar contractors.

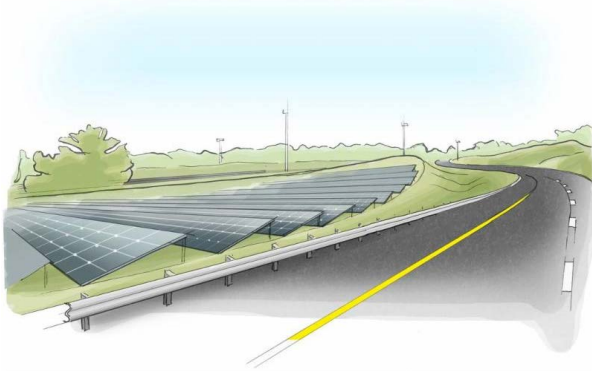


The Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) noticed that when people apply for a mortgage, they get what is called a HUD-1, a standardized form that specifies the terms and conditions for the loan. The information is presented in a universal format that applies to loans in all 50 states, which makes it easier for home owners to compare the total cost of various mortgage packages.

What if there was a similar tool that residential solar customers could use to compare offers from solar contractors? Now there is. It's called the [SEIA Solar Purchase Disclosure](#) and it's available online for free. [READ MORE](#)

## Solar Highway in Rural Georgia





## In Rural Georgia, Tomorrow's Smart, Sustainable, Solar Highway is Being Built Today:

The Ray, a 16-mile test run for the roadway of the future, is off to a great start

Memorial roadways offer respectful tributes to famous citizens and civic leaders. But on a 16-mile stretch of Interstate 85 in southwestern Georgia, renamed the Ray C. Anderson Memorial Highway, the asphalt isn't just a reminder. It's a living laboratory helping advance the ideas of an industrial and environmental pioneer.

This out-of-the-way section of interstate, now known as The Ray, offers a vision of how highways could look and function in the future. Drivers crossing the border from Alabama will see photovoltaic arrays rising above a rest stop, part of a sustainable electric vehicle charging station. [READ MORE](#)

## SAVE THE DATE

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**BEAR'S BEST ATLANTA GOLF CLUB, SUWANEE, GA**  
**Thursday, April 20, 2017**

To register a team, contact Lauren Hart, (678) 596-9223 or [lauren@gasolar.org](mailto:lauren@gasolar.org)  
(Sponsorship opportunities available through April 7th on a space available basis.)

*THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS*



**Solar For Schools Program Gets \$35K Grant**

## GEFA awards \$35,000 grant for students to gain knowledge and hands-on experience in the solar industry

Savannah Technical College was selected to receive a grant for \$35,000 in the Solar for Schools Program funded by the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA).



The GEFA Solar for Schools Program will provide students the opportunity to enter the workforce specializing in electrical applications of installing, inspecting, and repairing solar panels. [READ MORE](#)



**PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO THE  
GEORGIA SOLAR ENERGY ASSOCIATION.**

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

## Maryland Greenlights Community Solar Projects



### Maryland greenlights 192.1 MW in community solar projects

Under the new Maryland PSC's community solar ruling, cities like Baltimore will have more opportunities to provide citizens with the renewable-energy options they want. The three-year pilot program is expected to jumpstart community solar in the state, proving the viability of this fast-growing industry segment.

"The new community solar program offers a big opportunity to expand the solar market, bringing clean energy, jobs and solar savings to Maryland residents," said Tom Matzzie, Founder and CEO of CleanChoice Energy. "More solar means cleaner air, healthier lungs, a greener world. We're very excited to do business in Maryland." [READ MORE](#)

## SEIA Solar Champion Award

### North Carolina Lawmakers Receive Major Solar Accolades

The Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) presented both Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC) and



Charlotte, NC

Rep. George Holding (R-NC) with the prestigious SEIA Solar Champion Award, an honor bestowed upon entities or individuals who have helped strengthen solar power in America.

The two North Carolina lawmakers were awarded this recognition for their continued leadership in the Senate and House to promote greater use of solar energy. Their support helped secure an extension of the federal solar investment tax credit in 2015, leading to increased deployment and employment nationwide.

"The solar industry employs over 7,000 people in North Carolina - a testament to how many folks are using solar energy in our state," Congressman George Holding said. "I'm honored to receive this award, and excited to see what the industry develops in the years to come to meet our growing energy demands." [READ MORE](#)

## Pueblo, CO & Moab, UT Commit to 100% Renewables



Canyonlands National Park

### Pueblo, Colorado and Moab, Utah Commit to 100% Renewable Energy, *First cities to commit to 100 percent renewable energy under Trump Administration.*

Pueblo, Colorado, and Moab, Utah, became the 22nd and 23rd cities in the United States to commit to transition to 100 percent clean, renewable energy. Pueblo has a sizable low-income population that has been suffering from the high cost of electricity due to the local utilities' decision to build new gas infrastructure and saddle the cost with ratepayers. More than 7,000 people in Pueblo have had their electricity shut off due to the high cost of electricity.

In Utah, Canyonlands National Park has been marred by haze pollution from two neighboring coal plants, which threatens the local Moab tourism industry - the economic lifeblood of the community. With this week's announcements, both communities are poised to confront these threats by transitioning away from fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy.

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**Georgia Solar Energy Association**

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[www.gasolar.org](http://www.gasolar.org)

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