

Moving Beyond Section 201 ...



FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAIRMAN



Good news, bad effects and awful truth about the solar tariff

"... The greatest loss will be felt in Georgia's vulnerable rural economy, which has benefitted substantially in the past five years from utility scale solar projects. Regions of the state that had languished without economic investment for decades now host multi-million dollar solar farms. The increase in property values from solar investments have generated tax dollars these communities now use to improve schools, roads, county services and law enforcement. (This helps) them attract even more investment.." **Read More**



GEORGIA SOLAR PRESENTS
SOLARSWINGS
7TH ANNUAL GOLF EVENT
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April 19th, 2018
3:30 Registration Opens
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6:00pm - 7:00pm Awards Reception
7:00pm Events Ends



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1600 Ellsworth Industrial Blvd., NW
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Largest Solar Plant In Southeast Coming To Georgia

The largest solar power plant in the Southeast will be built right here in Georgia....

First Solar, which is based in Arizona, said it will build a **2,000-acre** solar facility in Twiggs County just south of Macon....

First Solar said building the plant could generate 300 to 400 hundred construction jobs.



Once the plant is up and running, it's expected to generate 450 gigawatt hours a year....how much electricity is that? "That equates to enough power to meet the needs of roughly 33,000 typical Georgia households," said Steve Krum, with First Solar. **Read More**

U.S. Solar Market Moves Past Section 201



... six weeks after U.S. President Donald Trump imposed 30% global tariffs on imported PV modules and cells, the feeling from (the Solar Power Finance and Investment conference in Southern California) is that the U.S. solar industry has largely regrouped, adapted to the new circumstances and moved forward.

It appears that in many cases the prices are simply being absorbed by manufacturers and developers, slimming margins and making the United States a less attractive market for foreign PV makers ... and instead of killing projects outright, in many cases Section 201 appears to be affecting project pipelines ... the step-down in tariff levels is encouraging developers and construction contractors to wait for the Spring of 2019. **Learn More**

GEORGIA SOLAR MISSION

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

Why Distributed Solar is Winning in Texas

Texas has long been known as the capital of oil and gas. And over the past decade it added so much wind power that if Texas were a country, it would be the world's fourth-largest wind producer. Looking back at the past few years, a fourth energy trend can be added: the growth of solar photovoltaics (PV).



Texas has added **1.8 GW of solar** to date, more than 80 percent of that in the past two years, ranking it **third in the nation** by new capacity. The Texas solar industry now employs **about 10,000 people**, more than **double** the number of people employed three years ago.

Astonishing even to solar power proponents, Texas's main grid operator, Electric Reliability Operator of Texas (ERCOT), forecasted that solar would be the only economically viable new power source from **now to 2031.... Read More**

Report finds solar jobs declined nationwide in 2017, grew in some cities and states

The Solar Foundation released an updated map on the number of solar jobs in every state, metropolitan area, county and congressional district, revealing the geographic distribution of America's 250,271 solar jobs. The interactive map can be viewed at **SolarStates.org**.

The National Solar Jobs Census 2017



found that nationwide, solar employment declined 3.8%, from 260,077 jobs in 2016 to 250,271 in 2017. At the same time, solar jobs increased in 29 states and the District of Columbia, as well as in major metropolitan areas throughout the nation. This growth took place in many states with emerging solar markets, such as Minnesota, Utah, Florida, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, **Georgia** and others. **Read More**



Solarize Atlanta Launches Thursday, April 12th!

'Solarize' Program To Make Solar Panels Cheaper For Atlanta Residents

Click [HERE](#) to Learn More.



Georgia environmental groups are preparing to launch a program to make solar panels cheaper for City of Atlanta residents.

The effort, called **Solarize Atlanta**, will also help with the technical aspects of choosing solar panels and getting them installed.

Athens, Decatur-DeKalb County and Dunwoody have all had similar programs.

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We post daily articles about solar that are trending in Georgia, the southeast, and the nation.



Sewer may go solar in Peachtree City



The Peachtree City Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) on a 4-0 vote on Feb. 15 approved the submission of an application to Georgia Power for the Rockaway Road property as a potential site for a solar project designed to sell electricity to Ga. Power and provide long-term revenue to the authority and its customers.

WASA consultant Jason Bodwell, with CHM2/Jacobs, advised the board on the various aspects of the Ga. Power REDI (Renewable Energy Development Initiative) project available on 22 acres at the Rockaway Road Wastewater Treatment Plant property. The solar array would use

Solar rises to nearly 2% of U.S. generation in 2017

...This massive amount of growth in electricity from sunlight means solar power represented just over 1.9% of all electricity generated in the United States in 2017. With solar power being just under 1% of electricity generated in 2015, we've seen *solar power generation roughly double over the course of two years.*



Four U.S. states saw solar pv electricity *break 10% of their total electricity generation* – California at 15%, Hawaii at 11.8%, Nevada at 10.8% and Vermont at 11.5%. *Additionally, the District of Columbia saw 77% of its total electricity generation come from solar pv.* **Read More**

Walton EMC to provide solar power to Facebook



COVINGTON — The Facebook Data Center planned for Stanton Springs will be 100 percent powered by renewable energy provided by Walton County Electric Membership Corporation.

Walton EMC announced Wednesday it was chosen by Facebook because of its solar energy program. The EMC will install hundreds of acres of solar panels in Georgia's electric grid as part of an

innovative power supply agreement with Facebook. The solar project is expected to also create hundreds of jobs.

Walton EMC spokeswoman Savannah Chandler said Thursday that the cooperative cannot disclose where the solar facility will be located as negotiations are ongoing with the developer. Chandler said the EMC expects to have the solar facility operational in 12 to 14 months. **Read More**

Consider Becoming a Member of GA Solar!



**YOUR MEMBERSHIP
& PARTICIPATION MAKES
A DIFFERENCE!**

Individuals, Nonprofits, Corporations, Cities, Counties, Come One Come All!

When an industry grows as fast as solar, and local jurisdictions across the country have different plan review and inspection standards, sharing national best practices and encouraging consistency can help make timelines and expenses easier to anticipate. And when expectations are the same at every stage – on the part of building plan reviewers, inspectors and installers – expenses associated with inefficiencies or delays are less likely to impact consumers.



Just released, **new updated guidelines** created by the independent Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) can help local jurisdictions improve the solar plan review and field inspection process. The checklists – which can be tailored for local and state code requirements while meeting national best practices – can then be used by plan reviewers, inspectors and installers. **Read More**



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

Microsoft Makes History With U.S.' Biggest Solar Corporate Purchase



Microsoft Corp. has purchased 315 MW of energy from Pleinmont I and II, two new solar projects in Virginia. According to the technology giant, this deal represents the single largest corporate purchase of solar energy in the U.S. to date....

Once operational, Pleinmont I and II will consist of more than 750,000 solar panels spread across more than 2,000 acres. The projects will produce approximately 715,000 MWh/year.

Notably, the new agreement will enable Microsoft to make significant progress toward its goal of reaching 60% renewable energy by early 2020. **Learn More**

Walmart Solar Panels Power Alabama Location

The Walmart project stretches across 1,100 acres — for perspective, the facility cannot be seen in its entirety from anywhere on the ground — and holds **338,662 solar panels** that track the sun automatically. The

tracking system is actually considered one of the best features in the facility as it will put the Walmart solar panels to optimal use, including during winter months.

Moreover, the Walmart solar panels make up the largest solar facility in Alabama, and while it generates enough energy to power over 18,000 homes, most of the energy and renewable energy certificates generated will go to power Walmart stores in the area. **Read More**



Austin Energy Celebrates 2.6 MW Community Solar Project



Austin Energy, the electric utility of the city of Austin, Texas, recently began receiving solar energy from its La Loma Community Solar Farm in east Austin, ... the largest community solar farm in the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) region.

La Loma boasts more than 9,000 panels. The 2.6 MW project is expected to produce at least 4,400 MWh of electric power per year.

Customers include renters, people with shaded roofs and residents who can't afford the upfront costs of rooftop solar, the utility explains, adding that more than half of Austin Energy customers are renters and thus have limited access to rooftop solar... Austin Energy has offered solar incentives to customers since 2004, and today, more than 7,200 customers have solar panels on their rooftops. **Read More**

Distributed solar and efficiency saves California \$2.6 billion on power lines: energy efficiency and distributed generation (DG) prove their worth

... California's grid operator signed off on the state's **2017-2018 Transmission Plan**, which approved 17 new transmission projects combined at a cost of nearly \$271 million.

This may seem like a large number, however 20 transmission projects were canceled and 21 were revised due to energy efficiency and residential solar power altering local area load forecasts. The projected savings from these changes is approximately \$2.6 billion. **Learn More**





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