



10th Anniversary Southern Solar Summit!



FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAIRMAN



Tariff-ed out? Then let's talk about the *10th Anniversary Southern Solar Summit!*

Yes, I agree. Concerns about the potential effect of tariffs on imported cells and panels seemed to dominate every solar conversation over the last year. We have all become a bit numb to talk of cost effects and a possible damper on growth.

So, now the time has come to talk about the future of solar in Georgia. We have a lot going on. What better way to get a plethora of information in one day regarding key topics on the current and future prospects for solar than a day with fellow solar professionals and advocates? Along with new trends in Georgia at our 10th Anniversary Southern Solar Summit on October 25th at the Carter Center, we will have discussions of national trends. This is our second Summit at the historic, solar-powered Carter Center. [Read More.](#)

Poll: What Do People Think About Solar?

More than three-quarters of **voters across party lines want to see their electric utilities invest more in solar energy** – the most favored form of electricity among those polled – and they want more action by the government to encourage the use of both large- and small-scale solar power, according to new polling on people's attitudes about energy.



The Global Strategy Group poll ... illustrates solar energy's widespread appeal among voters and national support for pro-solar policies, such as net metering and renewable portfolio standards (RPS) [Learn More](#)



Must-Attend Event!
10th Anniversary
Southern Solar Summit!

10th Annual
**Southern
Solar
Summit**
October 25, 2018 | gasolar.org



**THIS MONTH!
THURSDAY
OCTOBER 25, 2018
TIME: 9:00AM - 6:00PM**

**@ The Carter Center,
453 Freedom Pkwy NE,
Atlanta, GA 30307**

KEYNOTE: BILL NUSSEY, Freeing Energy

Bill Nussey is founder of the Freeing Energy Project, and author of the book, "Freeing Energy" to be released in 2019. His mission: accelerate the shift to cleaner, cheaper energy. Prior to Freeing Energy, Bill was a career CEO in SaaS software and digital marketing. His companies have created thousands of jobs and billions in market value. He was a venture capitalist with Greylock, IBM's VP Corporate Strategy; has an MBA from Harvard Business School and an Electrical Engineering degree from North Carolina State University.



KEYNOTE: ANYA SCHOOLMAN, Solar United Neighbors



With 60,000 people in her database across nine states, Anya is a powerhouse for rooftop solar. Solar United Neighbors (SUN) got its start when her son Walter asked, "Mom, can we go solar?" That simple question led to the spread of solar across Washington, D.C. We will also hear stories from the largest, grassroots solar, renewable energy and sustainable living event in the nation -- the "2018 National Solar Tour" which took place the weekend of October 6th and 7th.

KILLING CLEAN: Weather Channel Documentary



"Killing Clean" is a documentary about Ohio that examines the forces pushing back on renewable energy progress. "Killing Clean" demonstrates how they zeroed in on Ohio as an early win for their effort to fight clean energy policy at the state level.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



Global Renewable Energy Trends: Solar and Wind Move From Mainstream to Preferred.

Deloitte Insights: Having only recently been recognized as a "mainstream" energy source, renewable energy is now rapidly becoming a preferred one. A powerful combination of enabling trends and demand trends -- evident in multiple developed and developing nations globally -- is helping solar and wind compete on par with conventional sources and win. **Learn More.**



The Georgia Public Service Commission: Why Your Vote Matters!



Two seats on the five-member Georgia Public Service Commission are on the ballot next month (Nov). So, what is the Georgia Public Service Commission or "PSC"? The Georgia PSC is the governing body that regulates the rates and services of "public utilities" in the state, including telecommunications, electricity (meaning our Georgia Power bills) and natural gas.

Georgia has some of the lowest utility rates in the nation. However, electricity rates are set to resume a historic rate of increase over the next six years. "...In 2016, the Georgia PSC and Georgia Power agreed to freeze rates until the next rate case in 2019. A lot has happened since then. Georgia Power purchased Atlanta Gas & Light for \$12 billion and the costs to build Plant Vogtle 3 and 4 have soared to a total of \$25 billion and counting. These two events have not been factored into rates yet, but all that is about to change in 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.

From Rooftops to Algae Pools: Orlando's Vision for Carbon-Free Energy

ORLANDO, Fla. — This city has long been a leading tourist destination. Now, it is vying for another distinction: to be a pioneer in weaning itself from carbon-based energy.

You can see its aspirations in the thousands of ponds all over the city that collect the runoff from Central Florida's frequent downpours. Floating solar panels rise and fall in the water, sending power to the grid.

There is also evidence along city streets, where solar panels sit atop streetlights to power them instead of using the electric grid. About 18,000 of the 25,000 in the city already have been converted to high-efficiency light-emitting diodes. **Learn More.**



Tariffs Have Clearly 'Dampened' U.S. Solar Market, According To Q2 Results



Though the U.S. solar market has experienced a tumultuous few quarters since the government began considering [tariffs](#) on imported solar modules and cells last year, results from the second quarter of 2018 show signs of a turn-around in the market, according to the latest U.S. Solar Market Insight Report from Wood Mackenzie Power & Renewables (previously known as GTM Research) and the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA). **Read More.**

How to Install Solar Power Strong Enough for a Hurricane

The 2017 hurricane season gave analysts at the Rocky Mountain Institute a broad dataset of storm-related solar power plant outcomes, from which they have delivered a list of failures and specifications for high wind speed survival.



When a hurricane hits, it is much more like a never-ending herd of elephants than the freight train feeling that tornados are said to resemble. South Florida has implemented wind speed requirements for construction of anything from houses to solar installations in excess of 155 mph, up to 185 mph. That speed is fitting as the multiple

storms that hit the state and region in 2017 did have sustained wind speeds over 180 miles per hour. [Learn More](#).

U.S. Utility Solar Contracts 'Exploded' in 2018 Despite Tariffs: Report



A record 8.5 gigawatts (GW) of utility solar projects were procured in the first six months of this year after President Donald Trump in January announced a 30 percent tariff on panels produced overseas, according to the report by Wood Mackenzie Power & Renewables and industry trade group, the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA).

As a result, the research firm raised its utility-scale solar forecast for 2018 through 2023 by 1.9 GW. The forecast is still 8 percent lower than before the tariffs were announced. A gigawatt of solar energy can power about 164,000 homes. [Learn More](#).

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Texas is Going Green; 86% of Future Capacity Solar or Wind, Zero Coal



The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT's) pipeline of projects has ballooned to almost 80 GW. 12 GW of this is gas and the rest is wind and solar power plants, as well as 522 MW of energy storage.

The Texas power grid is going green, and at an increasing rate. Texas wind capacity is already larger than coal, and sometime in 2018 or 2019 we're going to see total electricity from wind be greater than coal. After this summer's heatwaves the Texas grid is begging for solar power, and a UT-Austin analysis says the grid is ripe for 11 GW.... [Read More](#).

2018 National Solar Tour of Homes Largest in Event's History

The National Solar Tour of Homes was created by the American Solar Energy Society (ASES). 2018 will mark the tour's 23rd year and its largest pool of participants to date, as over 400 homeowners ... signed up to give tours of their solar-powered homes.

The goal of the tours is to create an energy community by having tour guides show neighbors' solar ability to cut energy costs, create energy independence and protect homes from power outages caused by natural disasters. [Learn More](#).



"SOLARIZE" Programs Bringing Rooftop Solar to Georgia



Solarize programs are community-based group-purchasing programs that make solar more affordable and accessible to residents of a community. After successful programs in Tybee Island, Athens, Decatur-DeKalb, Dunwoody, Atlanta and Carrollton, Solarize programs continue to spread across Georgia.

Over 60% of participants in these programs are adding battery storage with solar energy systems and getting a 30% tax credit on the entire system. Battery storage systems help homeowners and businesses optimize the power of the sun well into the evening hours, save more money from utility bills, and serve as emergency back-up systems when the grid goes down.

Solarize Newton-Morgan recently launched (August) and **Solarize Middle Georgia** will launch October 23rd in Macon, Georgia. More communities are considering Solarize programs so their residents can take advantage of historic low costs of solar energy and battery storage systems before the 30% federal tax credit begins to phase out after 2019.



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

Community Solar Implementation Guide and Model for Rural Electric Cooperatives and Municipal Utilities in the Southeast

The N.C. Clean Energy Technology Center (NCCETC) released an [Implementation Guide for Community Solar in the Southeast](#) and a community solar [Economic Modeling Tool](#) as part of the Community Solar for the Southeast project.



The Community Solar for the Southeast project is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Energy Technologies Office with a goal to expand shared solar projects developed by electric cooperatives and municipal utilities across the Southeast. [Learn More.](#)

Consider Becoming a Member of GA Solar!



YOUR MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

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

Six Flags Great Adventure Goes Solar

When most people think of net-metered solar, they think of rooftop solar arrays on homes and small businesses; modest projects that feed the consumption of a family or maybe a store or an office.

And with good reason. Many states have capped their net metering programs so that only projects under a certain capacity can qualify for the program.



New Jersey is not among those states, and only requires that net-metered PV systems be no larger than is required to serve the annual electricity usage of a customer. This is how a 23.5 MW solar project ,, will offset “virtually all” of the electricity usage at the Six Flags Great Adventure in Jackson, New Jersey under net metering. **Learn More.**

The South Takes the Lead in Utility-Scale Solar as Interconnection Queues Swell to 188 GW.



As a further sign that solar is going mainstream across the United States, a new report by Lawrence Berkeley National Labs finds that southeastern states hosted 40% of the utility-scale solar installed nationally in 2017. Interconnection queues have swelled to 188.5 GW of utility solar capacity, eight times more than installed capacity.

The Southeast accounted for 40% of all new utility-scale solar capacity in 2017. “Particularly strong showings came from the established player North Carolina (at 16%, with 20 projects in the 10-80 MWAC range), followed by Virginia, South Carolina, Florida, and Mississippi,” reads the report. Texas installed 17% of new utility capacity nationwide.... **Read More.**



GA Solar

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