



GA Solar
GEORGIA SOLAR ENERGY ASSOCIATION

Holiday Greetings!



On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Solar Energy Association, we sincerely wish everyone a safe and joyous holiday season and a vibrant, uplifting and prosperous New Year!

Thank you for your continued support of GA Solar and our mission to promote the economic and environmental benefits of solar energy!

From the Desk of the Chairman



REFLECTIONS ON A CHALLENGING 2017 AND WISHES FOR 2018

Looking back on 2017, the solar industry has confronted a challenging year from the local to the national level.

We are waiting to see if President Donald Trump will impose the International Trade Commission's (ITC) recommendations for tariffs on imported panels and modules. Currently, the President has until January 26th to make his decision.... The Georgia Solar Energy Association has been actively engaged in the effort to persuade the ITC and our state's elected officials that these tariffs will cut good jobs from our growing solar industry....

GA Solar has engaged in local solar policy, too. Collaborating with industry stakeholders, we helped persuade Central Georgia EMC to cancel its punitive charges on solar customers. We have also worked with the cities of Atlanta, Decatur, and Athens, GA, to create permitting processes for solar installation that reduce delay and project costs.

Next year will be equally challenging as we consider the candidates for two seats on the Georgia Public Service Commission that are up for election. The Georgia PSC has more influence on energy regulation than any other state elected officials. [READ MORE](#)

Holiday Event Features Solar Training Program Founder



Holiday Event Features Brian Bollinger, Solar Training Program Founder

Join us for the 2017 GA Solar Holiday Celebration with Keynote Speaker Brian Bollinger, Exec. Director of Friends of Refugees in Clarkston, GA. The Luncheon begins at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 14th, in Piedmont Park's Magnolia Hall, 1320 Monroe Dr. NE, Atlanta, GA 30306.

Friends of Refugees is a refugee assistance organization. Friends of Refugees is now building the Jolly Avenue Development Center (JADC), a socially and environmentally sustainable economic development center providing skills training for refugees, and a STEM field trip and experiment site for four nearby schools. Solar installation training is part of the JADC program offerings.

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President Trump, U.S. Trade, & the Solar Industry



TRUMP'S FIRST MAJOR TRADE FIGHT WITH CHINA COULD BE OVER SOLAR PANELS

.... The solar panel industry could be Mr. Trump's first test of whether his harsh rhetoric toward China will result in significant trade measures - and whether those moves would help restore American businesses.

Factories in China now account for more than two-thirds of the world's production, up from a negligible share a decade ago. Faced with intense competition, more than a dozen solar companies in the United States have closed factories over the past six years.

China's push to become a major maker of solar panels has driven down global prices by close to 90 percent over the past decade, helping international efforts to curb emissions of planet-warming greenhouse gases. That has blurred the lines over the pending solar trade fight even within the United States, where American manufacturers are squaring off against American installers and users of the panel.... **READ MORE**

2017 Solar Advocate Award Finalists

The nominations are in and the finalists have been selected. Who will receive the 2017 Solar Advocate Award from the Georgia Solar Energy Association? The winner will be announced at the *December 14th Holiday Luncheon*. **REGISTER TODAY!**



Jamie Barber began her career at the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) in 1993 in the Fiscal Office. She has worked in the Electric Section and the Natural Gas Unit prior to her current role since Jan 2010 as the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Manager in the Internal Consultants Unit. She is responsible for making policy recommendations on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency issues that come before the PSC.

The City of Atlanta has committed to operating with 100% clean energy by 2025 and throughout the city by 2035. It plans to deploy 160 solar-powered recycling bins citywide and has installed a solar array at the Aluma Farm on the Beltline's Westside Trail. Atlanta was recently honored by the U.S. Dept. of Energy with its *SolSmart Gold Award* for its efforts to encourage solar deployment in the city, including adoption of a streamlined permitting process for solar installations that reduces project costs.

James Marlow, President and Co-Founder of Radiance Solar has led the charge from GA to speak against the pending ITC tariff case brought by Suniva. Radiance Solar has completed over 200 solar projects and focuses on business opportunities in the Southeastern US (Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee), & also provides design, engineering and procurement services for clients nationwide.



Breaking News ... New Storm on the Horizon

SENATE APPROVES TAX BILL (12/02) WITH PROVISION TO HOBBLE SOLAR & WIND TAX CREDITS



The bill will now be reconciled with the House version, which does not contain the BEAT provision. SEIA says that it has four Senators who support "fixes", but was not able to get a modification to the Senate bill.

Over the course of this week, the U.S. solar and wind industries have had to rapidly mobilize to stop a provision that endangers the \$12 billion annually in tax equity for solar and wind projects, which according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance (BNEF) represented 21% of total U.S. renewable energy investment last year.

And as of this morning, it appears that solar and wind have lost that struggle. Shortly after midnight the U.S. Senate narrowly passed a major tax reform bill 51-49 upon party lines which contains a provision that could make both the Investment Tax Credit (ITC) and Production Tax Credit (PTC) unusable to multinational banks and other corporations, including those based in the United States. [LEARN MORE](#)



SOLAR COSTS TO FALL 60% OVER THE NEXT DECADE:

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) forecasts as much as 90 GW of new solar additions annually across the globe over the next few years, driving a 60% reduction in costs

Tumbling solar prices have been a mainstay in the PV industry over the past year, plunging faster than many observers expected and prompting serious questions of how low prices can actually go IRENA believes that it has an answer to that thorny question: 60% lower than today's prices within a decade. [LEARN MORE](#)



CNBC: THE HOTTEST JOB OVER THE NEXT DECADE IS EXPECTED TO BE SOLAR PANEL INSTALLER.

With the population aging and demand for services growing, the economy likely will add nearly four million new health care and social assistance positions, according to the bureau. That would mean that about 1 in every 5 jobs would be related to the industry.

More specifically, the highest total job growth is expected to come for personal care aides, a

profession that now has just over 2 million workers now but will have nearly 2.8 million in 2026, a gain of 37.4 percent, the BLS, a division of the Department of Labor, estimates....In percentage terms, the biggest growth will come from solar panel installers at 105.3 percent - from 11,300 now to 23,200. [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.

SOLAR BOOM IN THE CONSERVATIVE SOUTH: IT'S ABOUT ECONOMICS AND ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

When Brandon Presley was elected to the Mississippi Public Service Commission in 2007, he said, he couldn't have found a solar farm "with a SWAT team and a search warrant."



A decade later, Mississippi is one of the fastest-growing solar markets in the United States, according to GTM Research. The state's public service commission approved several solar projects this summer, and the state is expected to gain more than 700 megawatts of solar capacity over the next five years. [READ MORE](#)

Mercedes-Benz Stadium Installs 4,000 Solar Panels



GEORGIA POWER COMPLETES SOLAR INSTALLATION ON MERCEDES-BENZ STADIUM

As Mercedes-Benz Stadium opens for its inaugural season, more than 4,000 solar panels installed by Georgia Power across the campus will harness the power of the sun to

produce renewable energy.

As the official energy partner of the Atlanta Falcons and a founding partner of Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Georgia Power worked on the solar installations as part of the stadium's larger

sustainability efforts. The solar installations are among the largest and most advanced integrated solar facilities at any American sports venue. [LEARN MORE](#)

We Need Your Support ...



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

Your support helps to advance the solar industry in Georgia!

Community Solar



GEORGIA POWER TO OPEN COMMUNITY SOLAR PROGRAM IN JANUARY (2018) THOUGH PRICE IS STEEP

... Georgia Power is selling shares of a 3 MW program at \$24.99 per 1 kW block per month, for a maximum not to exceed a customer's usage or 10 blocks. Each 1 kW block will produce an estimated 130-240 kilowatt-hours per month, in the neighborhood of roughly 20% of a typical residential customer's usage. This works out to a range of 10 - 19 cents per kWh, and if the average output is in the middle of this range at 185 kWh, then the cost to the consumer will be 13.5 cents per kWh.

Given that the 'levelized' cost of electricity from utility-scale solar in the United States (fell) to a range of 4.4 - 6.6 cents/kWh in the first quarter of (2017), ... excluding the benefits of the Investment Tax Credit... this is a remarkably high price. It's also higher than the average residential electricity price in Georgia, which was at 11.4 cents/kWh in 2016. [LEARN MORE](#)

Nascar Racing Includes Solar Laboratory

**DAYTONA INTERNATIONAL
SPEEDWAY MAKING SOLAR
ENERGY HISTORY WITH
7,000 SOLAR PANELS**



Daytona International Speedway's legendary race track may be home to NASCAR racing, but for nearly two years, it has also been a live laboratory for solar energy research.

The Florida Power & Light (FPL) Solar Circuit, built in February 2016, is made up of 7,000 solar panels set on top of three structures around the speedway property - located at 1) the Midway, 2) UNOH FANZONE and 3) the Lot 10 parking area.

According to FPL, it is considered one of the largest distributed-generation installations in Florida, "helping to power the Speedway's operations and FPL's 4.9 million customers." The system is one of the largest solar power installations in U.S. professional sports.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

Atlanta Commits to 100% Renewable Energy



ATLANTA COMMITS TO 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY BY 2035

Atlanta, Georgia, is the 27th US city to make the pledge to run on 100% clean energy.

On May 1st, lawmakers committed the city to run on entirely clean energy sources, including wind and solar.

The city council unanimously approved the measure, which will first transition all city buildings by 2025, and include the rest of the city by 2035. [LEARN MORE](#)

COLUMBUS SOLAR FARM BEING CONSIDERED FOR CITY-OWNED PROPERTY

Columbus may be on the verge of its first solar farm. George Mori, president of an Atlanta-based company called SoLAmerica Energy, appeared before Columbus

Council recently with a proposal to develop what he called "an urban solar farm" on under-utilized property owned by the city just west of Technology Parkway and south of the Muscogee County Prison on Schatulga Road. Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge said the city is currently working on an agreement with the Development Authority of Columbus to lease the 22-acre site. [READ MORE](#)



Consider A Membership with GA Solar



Zillow Expands Solar Listings



ZILLOW EXPANDS ITS SOLAR EVALUATION LISTINGS TO 84 MILLION HOMES

When major real estate evaluators start including solar potential in their home appraisals, it's clear the industry is gaining mainstream acceptance.

Last year, as the number of solar jobs expanded and solar growth continued apace, the online home-listing service provider Zillow added a solar potential listing to descriptions of 40 million homes, thanks to a partnership with two startups, Sun Number and Wave Solar.... The partnership must have proven to be valuable because Zillow announced (yesterday) it was adding *the solar component to 44 million more home listings, more than doubling its commitment to promoting solar's value.* **LEARN MORE**

Over 5,000 U.S. Schools Go Solar



U.S. SCHOOLS ARE GOING SOLAR 'AT A RAPID PACE' AND BENEFITING BIG-TIME

With installation costs plummeting, U.S. schools are switching to solar energy at a rapid pace, reducing their electricity bills and freeing up resources to invest in education. There are now 5,489 K-12 schools in the country that use solar energy, nearly double the total solar capacity

that was installed at schools in 2014, according to a new report by The Solar Foundation, Generation 180, and the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA).

The dramatic growth in solar school adoption has been driven by rapidly declining installation costs. The average price of a solar school installation has dropped 67% in the last 10 years, and 19% in 2016 alone, the report finds.

Nearly 4 million students in the U.S. attend schools with solar power, with a combined capacity of 910 MW, an increase of 86% over 2014. The amount of electricity these schools produce annually, at 1.4 million MWh, is enough to power over 190,000 homes. [READ MORE](#)

Retired Coal Plants = Solar Opportunity

COAL PLANT RETIREMENTS CREATE OPPORTUNITY FOR SOLAR IN TEXAS

Despite the Trump Administration's plans to prop up uneconomic coal plants through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), more continue to go offline. This was underscored ... when Luminant announced that it would close two coal plants in Central Texas in early 2018, for a total capacity of 2.3 GW.



The Big Brown Power Plant runs on lignite, a low-quality form of coal. Texas Green Report / Texas Sierra Club

This comes only one week after Luminant revealed plans to close its Monticello coal plant in Northeastern Texas in 2018, for another 1.8 GW. The individual units at two of these three plants came online around 40 years ago, but the latest unit at the Sandow Plant is only eight years old. [LEARN MORE](#)

Breaking News: PSC Staff Says Cancel Plant Vogtle



PSC STAFF SAYS CANCEL VOGTLE IF PROJECT REMAINS 'UNECONOMIC'

Analysts appointed by the Georgia Public Service Commission to evaluate progress at plant Vogtle in Augusta say the project should be cancelled as Georgia Power failed to

manage it in a "reasonable manner."

"Completion of the project is no longer economic given the additional costs and schedule

delays," the analysts said in written testimony to commissioners.....

The experts opposed Georgia Power and partner company requests to shift the projects financial risks resulting from contractor's failures to customers as some costs "incurred by the company were not reasonable to allocate to customers." Instead, they said Georgia Power and it's shareholders should shoulder the risk. [READ MORE](#)

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