



City of Coral Gables  
CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
July 7, 2015

**ITEM TITLE:**

A Resolution Authorizing Support for Solar Photovoltaic Energy and the Florida Solar Financing Action Plan.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD RECOMMENDATION:**

Approval

**BRIEF HISTORY:**

Solar photovoltaic energy offers many potential benefits, including lower electricity costs for homeowners, businesses, and governments; local jobs and economic development; reduced dependence on imported fuels; and pollution-free electricity generation.

The State of Florida has the third-highest potential for rooftop solar energy generation in the United States, but currently ranks 13<sup>th</sup> in the nation for installed solar capacity.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has awarded the Go SOLAR – Florida team a \$1.6 million SunShot Initiative Rooftop Solar Challenge II competitive award to make it easier for Floridians to obtain grid-tied solar installations. Go SOLAR Florida is one of 8 recipients of a Rooftop Solar Challenge II award nationwide. The purpose of the award is to increase the use of and access to solar energy among the state's residents and businesses by reducing market barriers, lowering non-hardware related installation costs and providing access to financing options over the next two and a half years.

The Go-SOLAR – Florida team is a partnership of Florida counties, cities, the Florida Solar Energy Center and Florida Atlantic University representing approximately 4 million Floridians. Six Florida counties are participating (Alachua, Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Orange and St. Lucie), along with nine Broward County municipalities (Cooper City, Hollywood, Lauderdale Lakes, Lauderhill, Lighthouse Point, Margate, Pembroke Pines, Plantation and Wilton Manors) and the City of Venice in Sarasota County.

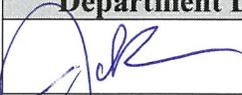
**The Go SOLAR – Florida team will use the funding to:**

- Improve the solar permitting process,
- Promote solar financing options statewide,
- Market solar photovoltaics and solar rights,
- Demonstrate the importance of clean energy development and related jobs,
- Model the benefits of intergovernmental cooperation, and
- Collaborate on a state-wide standard for connecting solar systems to the grid.

**Solar Financing Action Plan**

The Solar Financing Action plan focuses primarily on actions local governments can take under existing state and federal law, as well as options available to homeowners and businesses which could be supported by local governments. Although it is hoped that local governments, homeowners, and businesses will choose to employ some of these strategies to expand solar PV energy in Florida, this Plan does not take a position on which options are best. The Action Plan presents the solar financing options that are available throughout the state and allows each local government to evaluate them and decide which, if any, are applicable to their city.

**APPROVED BY:**

Department Director	City Attorney	City Manager
		

**ATTACHMENT(S):**  
**Resolution**  
**Solar Financing Action Plan**