

Go SOLAR Broward Rooftop Solar Challenge Team makes it easy to Go Solar!

Broward County is partnering with 14 cities (Coconut Creek, Dania Beach, Davie, Deerfield Beach, Fort Lauderdale, Hallandale Beach, Hillsboro Beach, Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, Miramar, North Lauderdale, Oakland Park, Pompano Beach, Sunrise, Tamarac), Unincorporated Broward County, School Board of Broward County, Florida Solar Energy Center, Florida Power & Light; Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals, Building Officials Association of Florida, and Broward League of Cities.

We are all working together to offer:

- 🏠 A dramatically improved permitting process.
- 🏠 Education to solar installers and customers on how to navigate the new permitting system.
- 🏠 Free workshops to increase the demand for solar energy.
- 🏠 Training for code compliance, building inspectors, and plan reviewers.
- 🏠 Information about FPL interconnection standards and procedures.
- 🏠 Education to the public about legal rights to install rooftop solar systems and to local homeowner associations about Florida's solar rights laws.
- 🏠 Status of market based incentives and financing options.

Participating Partners (Go SOLAR Team)

Coconut Creek
Dania Beach
Davie
Deerfield Beach
Fort Lauderdale
Hallandale
Hillsboro Beach
Lauderdale-by-the-Sea
Miramar
North Lauderdale
Oakland Park
Pompano Beach
Sunrise
Tamarac
Unincorporated Broward County
Florida Power & Light
Broward County School Board
Broward League of Cities
Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals
State Office of Energy
Florida Solar Energy Center



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BROWARD COUNTY FLORIDA Pollution Prevention, Remediation and Air Quality Division
A SERVICE OF THE BROWARD COUNTY Board of County Commissioners

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broward.org/gogreen/gosolar

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Broward Rooftop Solar Challenge



Making Solar Energy Easy!

To learn more about the
Go SOLAR
Broward Rooftop Solar Challenge

Visit broward.org/gogreen/gosolar

Email: gosolar@broward.org

Phone: 954-519-1260



@ Broward Environment



Florida Solar Co-op Program

For homeowners: reduced electric bills, more access to affordable solar PV equipment, more investment in local properties

For whole county: empowered citizens, more local jobs, cleaner air, help delay or avoid costly outlays on generating plants and transmission lines, expand business opportunities for solar installers

What is a solar co-op?

- Solar co-ops consist of homeowners who are bundling their buying power to secure a competitive price and high-quality offerings for solar PV equipment for their respective homes.
- Solar co-ops are homeowners coming together to take control of their energy production, learn together and exercise their purchasing power as more informed consumers.

How do solar co-ops work?

1. Homeowners learn about solar and decide to join online at solarunitedneighbors.org/florida. (There is no fee or commitment to sign up.)
2. Members' roofs reviewed remotely for suitability and members are notified via educational email.
3. Once 20 members have joined, installers invited to bid and co-op members select one installer.
4. Installer draws up customized design and each homeowner decides if they will sign contract.
5. Very important: There is no obligation to sign a contract!
6. Installer completes installations and co-op members celebrate!

What is happening in Florida?

- 57 co-op programs are either completed or underway.
- Over 1,600 homeowners have gone solar through a Florida co-op.
- Solar United Neighbors of Florida is a program of a 501(c)3 nonprofit based in Washington D.C., Solar United Neighbors. Solar United Neighbors has twelve (and counting!) state programs and has facilitated hundreds of solar co-ops across these states.
- Other local organizations will be invited to become local partners.

How can a County be involved?

- Elected officials can become **public spokes persons** with the media and other audiences.
- Government officials can **sponsor a co-op** and provide funding through a contract or grant. (Note: Orange County, Hillsborough and Broward County have signed contracts. Miami-Dade County and St. Petersburg pay for a Solar United Neighbors of Florida coordinator position dedicated to facilitating co-ops in that area.)
- Government officials can **publicize the co-op** through a variety of communication channels.
- Government officials can **provide space for "Solar Information Meetings"** designed to educate the public about the benefits of solar.
- Elected and other government officials can **lead by example and become members of the solar co-op**.

What is the track record of solar co-ops in Florida?

- St. Petersburg Co-op (2016) Mayor Kriseman endorsed
- Orange County Co-op (2016) Mayor Jacobs spearheaded and funded
- Brevard County Co-op (2016) Brevard County Commission & Satellite Beach Mayor endorsed
- Sarasota County Co-op (2017) City of Sarasota endorsed



- East and West Broward County Co-op (2017) Sponsored by County's Environmental Protection Dept.
- Miami-Dade County Co-op's (2017-2018) Green Corridor District sponsored 6 co-ops
- Miami-Dade County Co-ops (2017) Cities of Miami, South Miami, Miami Shores Village and Miami-Dade County pass resolutions of support for co-ops
- Miami-Dade County Co-ops (2017) Cities of Miami, South Miami, Miami Shores Village, and Town of Surfside passes ordinance to waive solar permitting fees
- St. Johns County Co-op (2017) St. Augustine Mayor Nancy Shaver endorsed
- Volusia County Co-op (2017) City of DeLand, DeLand Mayor Apgar endorsed
- Pinellas County Co-op (2017) City of Dunedin, Safety Harbor and Tarpon Springs endorsed
- Hillsborough County Co-op (2017) Sponsored by County Commissioner Pat Kemp, funded by Hillsborough County
- Palm Beach County (2017) Endorsed by City of West Palm Beach and Mayor's Office of Sustainability
- Leon County Co-op (2018) County Commissioner Dozier endorses, BOCC and City of Tallahassee pass Proclamation of Support
- Miami-Dade County Co-ops (2018) Miami Springs, Doral, Palmetto Bay, Cutler Bay, and Miami Beach passes ordinance to waive solar permitting fees
- Miami-Dade County Co-ops (2018) Miami Springs passes a resolution in support of co-ops
- Citrus County Co-op (2018) County Commissioners pass Resolution of Support
- Franklin-Bay Co-op (2018) supported by City of Apalachicola
- St. Petersburg (2018) funds a St. Pete Co-op Coordinator F/T position and three co-ops
- Orange County (2018) gov't fully funds two co-ops; Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs went solar with co-op; 3 County Commissioners join
- Orange County (2018) Orange County achieve Gold status with SolSmart
- Highlands County (2018) BOCC passes Resolution of Support; City Councilman Lowrance and Deputy Mayor of Avon Park endorse
- Sarasota Co-op (2018) Sarasota County and City of Sarasota endorses
- Miami United Teachers of Dade (2018) forms the first affinity group co-op
- Polk County Co-op (2018) endorsed by City of Lake Wales and Bartow, as well as Polk County BOCC
- Palm Beach (2018) endorsed by City of Boca Raton, Delray Beach, West Palm Beach and Boynton Beach
- Broward County (2019) funds Broward County Solar Co-op. City of Coconut Creek passes Resolution of Support.
- Miami-Dade County Employees Co-op (2019) is geared toward employees and departments host info sessions
- Seminole County (2019) City of Oviedo passes Resolution of Support, City of Altamonte Springs hosts launch
- Space Coast (2019) Titusville City Council Member Robert Jordan and Cocoa City Council Member Lorraine Koss endorse; City of Cocoa Beach sponsors info session; City of Cocoa passes Resolution of Support and waives permitting fees.
- Orlando (2019) City of Orlando sponsors 2 co-ops as part of the American Climate Cities Challenge
- St. Petersburg (2020) City of St. Pete sponsors 2 co-ops as part of the American Climate Cities Challenge
- Hillsborough County (2020) funds a co-op
- City of Maitland and City of Winter Park partner on the Orlando Solar Co-op 2020
- Green Corridor District funds 3 South FL co-ops 2020 – 2021



For more information:

Heaven Campbell

Program Associate, Solar United Neighbors of Florida

heaven@solarunitedneighbors.org

904-701-4059

What is the Rooftop Solar Challenge?

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) launched the Rooftop Solar Challenge to accelerate significant improvements in market conditions for rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) projects. This nationwide effort engages local and state governments along with utilities, installers, non-governmental organizations, and others to make solar energy more accessible and affordable.

The Go SOLAR Team is working to reduce administrative barriers to residential and small commercial PV solar installations by streamlining, standardizing, and digitizing administrative processes. Complex permitting processes increase the cost of solar energy systems and limit the growth of the solar industry. The objective of the Challenge is to make the process of going solar simpler, faster, and more cost effective for residents and businesses.



Streamlined Solar

According to the DOE, non-hardware, or soft costs associated with processes such as Standardized Permitting and interconnection make up as much as 40 percent of the total installed cost of a rooftop PV system. The Go SOLAR Team is implementing process improvements in four action areas:

Permitting and Interconnection — Develop and make available best practices for streamlining and standardizing permitting and interconnection processes.

Financing — Investigate potential financing options for the installation of rooftop photovoltaic (PV) systems in residential and small commercial structures, identify the benefits and challenges of each option and provide information to stakeholders.

Planning and Zoning — Identify restrictive zoning ordinances and develop best practices regarding more favorable provisions.

Net Metering — Conduct outreach to local utilities regarding net metering standards and conduct research into restrictive interconnection requirements across the State of Florida.

Phase I runs through February 2013. Awardees who demonstrate significant progress across all four action areas will then be eligible to receive additional funding to help our entire region Go SOLAR.

Join the Go SOLAR Team!

The Go SOLAR Team has formed four committees in the areas of:

- Standardized Permitting
- Financing
- Planning and Zoning
- Outreach

If you want to participate, please email gosolar@broward.org.





BUILDING DIVISION

SOLAR PANEL CHECKLIST

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Required Forms:

- [Building Permit Application](#)
- Signed and Notarized [Addendum Form](#) by Contractor and Owner.
- A Notice of Commencement must be recorded if the job exceeds \$2,500.
- If permit submitted as an Owner Builder provide [Owner Builder Disclosure Statement](#).
- Copy of contract if job value is greater than \$5,000.
- If the contractor has a Workers' Compensation Exemption, a [Workers Compensation Exempt Letter](#) is required if exempt.
- Copy of Property Search/Ownership from the Broward County Property Appraisers Office WWW.BCPA.NET.

Required Permit Applications:

- Structural
- Electrical
- Plumbing (If applicable)

Permit Review Stops:

- Structural
- Electrical
- Planning & Zoning
- Plumbing (If applicable)

Minimum Plan Submittal:

- Provide one (1) original and two (2) copies of a signed/sealed survey (do not reduce or increase size). Provide an executed [Survey Affidavit](#) form if the survey is older than two (2) years and if there have been no changes to the property.
- Provide two (2) site plans (and building elevations, if applicable) clearly indicating the location of proposed work with dimensions and setbacks. Please note that all work must be highlighted on the site plans (i.e. fencing, driveways, generators, etc.).
- Provide an executed [Hold Harmless](#) utility easement agreement form if proposed work is located within such easements.
- Provide an executed [Tree Affidavit](#) form if proposed work does not conflict with existing tree(s).
- Provide the applicable drainage district approvals if proposed work is located within drainage related easements.



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- Two (2) sets of dedicated electrical and structural plans.
- Two (2) completed [Special Inspector forms](#) for all P.V plans that propose more than 1 panel.
- Electrical plans shall have a schematic showing all system components labeled, wire sizes, grounding, circuit sizing, overcurrent protection, and disconnect location complete with signage and location of signage.

Other Requirements:

- Solar contractors cannot install electrical portion.
- Electrical contractors can install solar panels and electrical portion.
- Follow the guidelines of Broward County Rule of Boards and Appeal of on [PV solar procedures](#).

Submittal Fees:

Residential/Commercial: 0.75% of construction value or minimum fee of \$25.00.