



FEBRUARY 2016



### From the Desk of the Chairman

Greetings on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Solar Energy Association. Today, this eNews was sent to all 159 Georgia counties to spread the good news that Georgia is one of the fastest growing solar markets in the country. From our military bases to our former tobacco fields, solar is bringing jobs and investment to every corner of the state.

We also send it to you, our members, so you will know we are working every day on your behalf! This is the first of six newsletters planned for 2016. With this eNews we introduce solar to a new audience. Thanks to the Solar Power Free Market Financing Act of 2015 and the extension of the federal tax credit, more people are learning of the benefits of solar.

We hope you will take the time to read the GA Solar eNews and contact us with any questions or comments. You can visit our website at [www.gasolar.org](http://www.gasolar.org) or call us at 404-522-4775.

Sincerely, Sharon Lee, Chairman



## First-Ever *Women in Solar Energy* Forum

Women are making great strides for solar in Georgia. A panel of women will discuss Georgia's solar industry growth and opportunities, and offer advice for women aspiring to successful solar careers.

**WHO:** Georgia Solar Energy Association & Women in Solar Energy

**WHAT:** Georgia's first-ever Women in Solar Energy Forum

**WHEN:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016 from 2-5PM

**WHERE :** Five Seasons Brewing Company, 1000 Marietta St., NW, Atlanta, GA 30318

**REGISTRATION:** \$15 for members; \$25 for nonmembers

**REGISTER** 

**SPONSORED BY:**



## Georgia's Rural Counties Embrace Solar

Georgia is now one of the fastest growing solar markets in the country. About 1 MW was installed up until 2009. To visualize this amount, think of the IKEA store in Atlantic Station, which has a 1 MW array on its roof:



Georgia is on track to exceed **1,000 MW** by the end of 2016! The vast majority of this capacity has been in the form of solar farms located in rural counties. ( [read more](#) )

### Georgia Solar Mission:

To advance the sustainable economic and environmental benefits of solar energy for Georgia

through education, advocacy, community and industry support.



## State & Federal Policies Expand Solar Opportunities in Georgia

Two momentous policy milestones - one at the state level and one at the federal level - have opened new opportunities in Georgia for access to solar from 2016 on.

In July, the Solar Power Free Market Financing Act of 2015 took effect. This long-awaited legislation, sponsored by state Rep. Mike Dudgeon (R-Johns Creek), will allow solar companies to install solar power systems on private property and sell their output to the property owner under a long-term contract.

In December, Congress approved an extension of the federal Investment Tax Credit (ITC), which allows a solar installation's owner to deduct 30 percent of the installation's cost from federal income tax. ([read more](#))

## JOIN GEORGIA SOLAR!

Become a member of Georgia Solar and partner with us to provide a webinar for your staff and/or your constituents on what they need to know about how solar energy works and options for installation.

[Click Here for Membership Information](#)



## Georgia Campuses Lead State in Solar Adoption



Poised as they are on the leading edge of research and leadership, Georgia's colleges and universities have been highly visible in their efforts to incorporate solar energy into their infrastructure and curriculum. ([read more](#))

[Solar Power Project Will Benefit UGA and GA Power](#)

*Pictured: solar canopy over parking lot at Agnes Scott College*



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Georgia Solar "Solar Swings" Golf Outing**  
**Thursday, April 21, 2016**



Sharon Lee, Chair, GSEA Board of Directors and Paul Wolff, Tybee Island City Councilman

**GA SOLAR HONORS  
PAUL WOLFF WITH 2015  
SOLAR ADVOCATE AWARD:**

**Tybee Island city councilman led  
first successful "Solarize"  
program in the Southeast**

The *Georgia Solar Energy Association* conferred its **2015 Solar Advocate Award** on Tybee Island's Paul Wolff in a December 2015 ceremony. GA Solar honored Wolff for initiating, guiding and successfully achieving the Solarize Tybee (Chatham County) program. Solarize Tybee, which followed the national model for effecting solar installations at lowest cost through a streamlined screening process and bulk purchasing, created 62 rooftop installations throughout Chatham County totaling 340 kilowatts. ([read more](#))

**Thank You [Solar CrowdSource](#) for Sponsoring the GA Solar eNews!**

*Harnessing the Power of the Crowd* : we help make solar more affordable and accessible for your community.

- *Solarize Georgia* - More accessible and affordable solar for communities
- *Community Solar* - Utilities sell portions of a large solar farm to its customers who get a credit on their bill.
- *Solar Crowdfunding* - Invest or donate to help Georgia nonprofits make the transition to clean energy.



**SERVICES: Program Design and Management; RFP Drafting and Bid Management; Project Design and Development; Outreach and Marketing; Stakeholder Collaboration.**

## What Is Solarize? Bringing the Costco Model to Solar

Solarize, or bulk purchasing programs, can help make solar more affordable to more people by using the purchasing power of communities to reduce installation costs. Solarize programs facilitate bulk purchasing by bundling a large group of projects into one big solar purchase, rather than buying one solar system at a time.

[\(read more\)](#)



## Georgia Solar Map

The Georgia Solar Map was developed by [Southface](#) to fill a need for information about the state's solar portfolio: locations, sizes and types of solar installations throughout Georgia.

This information was inaccessible in a single resource for years, but the Southface efforts to obtain records and reports have now produced the most accurate and compelling map of

information on residential, commercial and utility solar projects available. This mapping project includes a searchable database that can pinpoint and assess solar resources by location, type and other factors. [\(read more\)](#)

The Georgia Solar Map is available at [www.GeorgiaEnergyData.org/SolarMap](http://www.GeorgiaEnergyData.org/SolarMap).

## Solar Comes to Georgia's Military Bases

All three of the 30 megawatt solar installations in Georgia Power's 3X30 program for the state's military bases are under construction.

A 30 megawatt solar project also is under construction at King's Bay Naval Station in Brunswick.

### FORT BENNING



### FORT STEWART

These projects will advance the U.S. Department of Defense's objective to power its bases with at least 25 percent renewable energy by 2025.

Georgia's Fort Stewart near Savannah has distinguished its status in this military initiative. According to the official U.S. DoD science blog, Fort Stewart's solar project will produce more renewable energy than any other base installation in the nation when it is completed.

Fort Stewart's solar project will cover 227 acres subdivided into three subsections. Plans call for the project to begin production in Fall 2016.

The U.S. military spends \$4 billion annually on energy to operate its bases, and the push to renewable energy is viewed as an important step toward maintaining those operations under any conditions. ([read more](#))



**FORT GORDON**



## SAVE THE DATE!

8th Annual 2016 SOLAR SUMMIT  
Thursday, October 10, 2016  
Georgia Tech



## SOLAR in the SOUTHEAST...

[Two Lamar County Solar Plants Will Bring Temporary Jobs](#)

[NASCAR Racer Invests with SunEnergy1 for Large Solar Project](#)

[Ground Breaks at Fort Hood for Largest Renewable Energy Project in Army](#)





## SOLAR on the NATIONAL STAGE...

[Solar and Wind Just Did the Unthinkable](#)

[Solar Power Continues Its March to the Mainstream](#)

[Sun Edison Solar To Save California Water District More Than \\$9.5 Million](#)

## RESOURCES

[Harnessing the Sun: A Case Study of Solar Energy Deployment at Agnes Scott College](#)



**Thank you for reading our newsletter!**

**Please invite your friends and colleagues to subscribe.**

**Considering Joining:  
Your Support Will Help  
Advance Solar in Georgia**