



GA Solar

GEORGIA SOLAR ENERGY ASSOCIATION

From the Desk of the Chairman

STRONG SOLAR JOB GROWTH IN GEORGIA NOWHERE NEAR THE CEILING *(Saporta Report, 4/16)*

If there is one thing on everybody's mind these days, it seems to be: "What types of jobs will there be for working people now and into the future?"

A new report suggests one part of the solution. Jobs in Georgia's solar industry jumped 23 percent from 2015 to 2016, totaling nearly 4,000 jobs last year.

Georgia's job growth in this sector is just a tick behind the 25 percent job growth the industry saw nationwide. These are good jobs that can't be outsourced overseas, paying a median wage of \$26 per hour nationwide. [Read More](#)



SOME SOLAR ENERGY CUSTOMERS FEELING BURN OF SURPRISE CHARGES

by Stanley Dunlap, *Macon Telegraph*

When Macon resident Stan Hutchinson decided to install solar panels at his home in 2015, one of the tipping points to do so was a rebate that Central Georgia EMC offered. The combination of incentives plus the environmentally friendly form of energy appealed to him. Even with a federal tax credit, though, the solar panels were still a sizable investment: about \$18,000.

For about a year and a half everything appeared to be going well - until January (2017) when the utility added a tariff for solar use that's increased his bill by about \$52 a month. Central Georgia also lowered the tax credit that solar customers receive for excess power, Hutchinson said. "I feel very victimized," he said. "I can't do anything about it. It's not like I can go to another power company. It's not like I have a voice." [Read More](#)

GAUGING DISTRIBUTED

SOLAR'S TRUE IMPACT ON UTILITY RATES



The rapid growth of distributed solar in a number of states has raised questions about its potential effects on retail electricity prices, prompting concerns about cost-shifting between solar and non-solar customers. These concerns have led to a proliferation of proposals to reform retail rate structures and net energy metering (NEM) rules for distributed solar customers, often extending to states that have yet to witness significant solar growth.

Such proposals have generally been met with a great deal of contention and often absorb substantial time and administrative resources, potentially at the expense of other issues that may ultimately have greater impact on utility ratepayers.

Given these trade-offs, one might ask: How large could the effect of distributed solar on retail electricity prices conceivably be? And how does that compare with the many other factors that also influence electricity prices - and over which state regulators and utilities also have some degree of control? [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.



GEORGIA'S LOW-INCOME HOUSING DEVELOPERS CAN LEAD ON SOLAR

by Shan Arora, *Saporta Report*, (4/10)

Georgia ... had 22 megawatts (MW) of installed solar in 2012 when Southface launched the Solar Map available on www.GeorgiaEnergyData.org. The state exceeded 1,100 MW by the end of 2016.

However, our tracking of solar installations in Georgia also reveals *the vast majority of this capacity is in the form of solar farms that sell electricity exclusively to utilities. Very little distributed generation (DG) solar capacity is being added that directly benefits homeowners, businesses, nonprofits and local governments.*

AN OPPORTUNITY: The low-income housing tax credit (LIHTC) is a federal tax credit program that encourages private development and investment in an effort to provide affordable housing for low-income households.... Georgia has historically been a leader in

incentivizing sustainable building attributes through its LIHTC allocation policies. As a result, over 14,500 low-income units have been built in Georgia since 2008 that meet or exceed the energy efficiency specifications contained in one of the five sustainability certification programs authorized by DCA. Market forces and state policies have aligned to allow Georgia's LIHTC developers to lead on DG solar in much the same way they have led on energy efficiency.... [Learn More](#)

LOW-INCOME SOLAR POLICY GUIDE

HOT OFF THE PRESSES: LOW-INCOME SOLAR POLICY GUIDE

WHY LOW-INCOME SOLAR?

The growth of solar in the United States provides a tremendous opportunity to address some of the greatest challenges faced by lower-income communities: the high cost of housing, unemployment, and pollution.

Solar can provide long-term financial relief to families struggling with high and unpredictable energy costs, living-wage employment opportunities in an industry adding jobs at a rate of 20 percent per year, and a source of clean, local energy.
(www.lowincomesolar.org)



[FIND OUT MORE](#)



NEW REPORT SHINES LIGHT ON SUSTAINABLE SOLAR FARM DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTHEAST

A new report highlights how communities across the Southeast are harnessing the many benefits of solar power while ensuring that energy demands are balanced with smart, sustainable development of solar farms.

Released by the Southern Environmental Law Center, "[The Environmental Review of Solar Farms in the Southeast U.S.](#)" describes environmental review processes and

sustainable practices that currently inform the development of solar farms, which the report defines as projects larger than 1 megawatt (MW) and that require about 5 acres of land.

[Learn More](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR EXECUTIVE SUMMARY](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL REPORT](#)



SOLARIZE DECATUR-DEKALB

Solarize Decatur-DeKalb is a solar P V bulk-purchasing program that helps homeowners, businesses and nonprofits in Decatur and DeKalb County save on the cost of solar - the more that participate, the greater the savings!



Signed up: 850 Committed

RESIDENTIAL

- 603.0kW
- Tier 6 (\$2.70/watt)
- CO2 Avoided = 1,179,700 lbs annually

COMMERCIAL

- 23.7kW
- Tier 1
- CO2 Avoided = 46,360 lbs annually

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

**PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A
DONATION TO THE GEORGIA
SOLAR ENERGY ASSOCIATION**



THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Your support helps to advance the solar industry in Georgia.



UTILITIES ARE BULLISH ON SOLAR, DOWN ON COAL DESPITE CLEAN POWER PLAN ROLLBACK

President Trump made good on a campaign promise ... to start rolling back President Obama's climate change policies and take steps to reboot the coal industry. But despite Trump's pledge to revive coal, the industry experts who manage power plants don't see the coal sector making a comeback.

A new survey of utility executives found that just 4 percent think coal use will increase moderately or significantly in their utility's power mix over the next decade, while 27 percent said coal use would decrease moderately and 52 percent said it would decrease significantly.

Utility executives were most confident -- more than two-thirds of respondents in each region -- there would be moderate or significant growth in utility-scale solar, followed by distributed generation, such as rooftop solar, and then by distributed energy storage.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

REPORT: SOUTH CAROLINA RESIDENTIAL SOLAR INSTALLATIONS BOOMED LAST YEAR

South Carolina is a good example of the impact favorable solar policies can have: The state's rooftop renewables industry was virtually nonexistent in 2013, but is expected to add 500 MW this year.



According to Charleston's Post and Courier, permits for solar installations in the state's Lowcountry region jumped from about 100 in 2015 to 1,400 last year. And installed capacity is expected to rise from just 78 MW to more than 1,500 MW over the next five years.

New solar policies enacted in South Carolina since 2014 have given the state's industry a boost, including moves to authorize third-party ownership of systems and finalizing net metering rules. [Learn More](#)

SOLAR IN THE SOUTHEAST



[North Carolina: These Marines Beat the Odds to Build a Solar Energy Fund](#)

[Solar outlook brightens in lagging Tennessee](#)

[Solar industry fears for its future in Kentucky](#)

[FPL announces sites selected for eight new solar power plants](#)

[Report finds abundant opportunity for solar development in West Virginia's abandoned mines and landfills](#)

SOLAR AROUND THE NATION

[Apple installs 17MW rooftop solar array on Jobs' dream campus](#)

[Amazon to install 41MW of rooftop solar by end of 2017](#)

[Solar Brings the Most Jobs for the Money](#)

[Alberta's new rebate program to create 10,000 rooftop PV systems by 2020](#)

[Making Solar Big Enough to Matter](#)

[Investors Find Solar Gems in 'Carcass' of Bankrupt SunEdison](#)



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Georgia Solar Energy Association

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