



Interoffice Memorandum

APPROVED
BY ORANGE COUNTY BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JAN 13 2015 *CS/BS*

AGENDA ITEM

December 17, 2014

TO: Mayor Teresa Jacobs
-AND-
Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Jon V. Weiss, P.E., Director *JVW*
Community, Environmental and Development
Services Department

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SUBJECT: January 13, 2015 – Consent Item
Go Solar Florida Financing Options Plan and Resolution

The Environmental Protection Division (EPD) requests the Board of County Commissioners' (BCC) approval of the Resolution in support of the expansion of photovoltaic (PV) solar energy in the State of Florida, and recognizing a Florida Solar Financing Action Plan, which outlines research for best practices regarding solar financing.

On September 23, 2014, the BCC approved an Interlocal Agreement regarding Go Solar Florida by and between Broward County and Orange County. As part of that Agreement, Orange County is participating, along with other partners including Alachua, Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe and St Lucie Counties, City of Venice, Florida Atlantic University and the Florida Solar Energy Center, in a Department of Energy (DOE) funded grant. The goal of this grant is to increase the use of and access to solar energy among residents and businesses by reducing market barriers, lowering non-hardware related installation costs and providing access to financing options. In support of this goal, a Florida Solar Financing Action Plan was developed.

A next step in support of the goals for this grant is to clarify language in Chapter 38 zoning ordinance to be more solar friendly. Examples of items to make the code more solar-friendly may include: rooftop solar installations as a permitted use in all zoning categories; defining building height with rooftop solar installations; special zoning districts, etc. In addition, the major outcome of this grant is to create an online permitting system for rooftop solar installations. The proposed changes to Chapter 38 will be presented to the LPA in early 2015 and will be scheduled for two public hearings before the BCC for consideration.

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The Florida Solar Financing Action Plan, which all partners are presenting to their governing boards, was reviewed by EPD and the Office of Accountability. Upon approval, EPD shall forward copies of this Board action to Broward County.

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval of Resolution of the Orange County Board of County Commissioners regarding the Expansion of Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Energy in the State of Florida and Recognizing a Florida Solar Financing Action Plan. All Districts

JVW/LC: mg