

From: [Craig McAllaster](#)
To: [Lee Eng Tan](#)
Subject: solar energy in Florida - request for comments
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Please answer the following questions:

1. **What policies or programs would be most effective at promoting demand-side solar energy systems (i.e., programs effective on the customer side of the meter)?** I believe that utilities should encourage solar photovoltaic, solar hot water, and wind for individual consumers. These should be encouraged, and the state should help subsidize like the federal government does. I personally put photovoltaic and solar hot water on my home with only the federal subsidy. I thought the Duke Energy program was too limited and restrictive, so I didn't even apply for anything from them. They must allow this and not put surcharges on bill to penalize those, like me, who have done this on our own dime.
2. **What policies or programs would be most effective at promoting supply-side solar energy systems (i.e., utility or third-party owned)?** I think community owned solar farms (like OUC) make sense and provide an incentive to help utilities make solar available to more people. The State of Florida must step up to the plate and offer incentives to individuals for personal systems. I think third party owned systems should be allowed and not penalized by utility surcharges and penalties.

In providing comments on the above items, please address each of the following factors, as appropriate:

1. **Can the policies or programs be implemented under current Florida statutes?** I am not versed on Florida statutes, and cannot address this, but do know that politicians can change statutes to be favorable for personal solar projects and encourage our state to be solar friendly. I do seriously worry about utilities finding back door charges to penalize individuals like my self who have spent thousands of dollars of our own money to be more green.
2. **Can the policies or programs be implemented under current FPSC rules? If not, what changes or additions to the rules would be needed?** Once again FPSC rules can be changed by the governor and/or legislature and should be to make the "Sunshine State" friendly to solar energy. We are a joke to the nation when it comes to solar energy. Why?
3. **What are the impacts of the policies or programs on system reliability?** Technological challenges can be solved through progressive engineering, when implemented with an eye on doing the right things, reliability should not be impacted. Unless of course you are a utility trying to prevent private solar energy development for profits – then you will predict dire circumstances.
4. **What are the impacts of the policies or programs on system fuel diversity?** In my opinion Florida is becoming dangerously dependent on one fuel source, natural gas. With limited gas supply lines into the state, and no nuclear development possible, we are in trouble and one of the easiest alternatives is solar. Yes I am aware of the shortcomings, but

with utilities over dependence on cheap natural gas, and how long will that be, something needs to be done.

5. **Identify the cost-effectiveness of the policies or programs compared to traditional forms of generation.** Well lets see, I spent around \$28,000 of my own money for my solar system, the federal government gave me about a \$7,500 credit. Zero from the state, zero from Duke – so my system was pretty cost effective for the utilities and Florida. The economies are nuclear is cheapest over the long haul, gas is currently low cost, low emission, coal is plentiful but subject to federal air quality whims, solar looks good to me and that is why I spent my own money. Please do not allow utilities to find ways to penalize me for finding a solution that helps them reduce need in peak sunshine, hot days in Florida. I implore the PSC to look out for environmentally conscious customers like me and prevent the investor owned utilities from making my investment look foolish and something to be restricted or adding special assessments and fees to penalize me.
 6. **Identify specific costs associated with the policies or programs and who will bear these costs.** In my case I bore the cost and upfront expenditures. The federal government elected to give me a credit and I think the state should have helped too, in my case that won't be possible. IOU's can keep their money but not get a credit for my system as they did not help, other than providing a two way meter.
 7. **Identify how the policies or programs will be fair, just, and reasonable across the general body of ratepayers.** I am not asking for any favors from utilities, but at the same time don't want penalties or added fees. I think utilities can let the federal and state government elect tax credits and leave utilities out so they are not burdening other ratepayers.
3. **Are there any other policies or programs that could promote the development and deployment of solar energy systems in Florida?** Are we the "Sunshine State?" If so we should have solar friendly practices, not ones that make us 35th in the nation, or something like that. As I have said several times, tax credits where you can and the utilities only help by providing the meters and reasonable credits for solar fed back into the system. Please don't go any more backwards than the utilities have pressured you to go. Be progressive and solar friendly, without giving the farm away.

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