# Agenda

Go Solar – Florida Permitting Business Model

Online meeting

For any questions, please contact Kay Sommers, 954-519-1257, ksommers@broward.org

Thursday February 27, 2014

10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

**Goal of the meeting - Decide upon the way forward for the permitting/business model for the Florida Solar Permitting System that:**

1. **All participants can support**
2. **All participants can strongly advocate for**
3. **Can be completed within the time frame and budget of the grant**
4. **FSEC solution in place – 3-31-15**
5. **Each county’s solution must be largely developed by 3-31-15 and live by 12/15/15**
6. Feedback on the proposed draft Business Model

*Attached to this agenda is the best representation of what was agreed to at our meeting of 2/19/14. If we misrepresented any aspect of what was agreed to, please provide feedback so that the notes may be modified accordingly.*

1. Any new thoughts on the proposed Business Model

*Partners are welcomed to share any new ideas that may have been generated from internal discussions within their respective realms on the configuration of the Business Model for the Florida Solar Permitting system*

1. Proposal for next step

*The Broward County contingent will share some ideas on proposed next steps to move this process along towards securing a thoroughly refined plan.*

*Partners are asked to come prepared to share their ideas on how we can realize a thoroughly refined plan.*

1. All partners use one Florida Solar Permitting System (FSPS). Each Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) partner seamlessly interfaces with FSPS such that the applicant experience has the look and feel of a single permitting application regardless the AHJ through which the application is accessed. FSPS will be accessed through the [www.gosolarflorida.org](http://www.gosolarflorida.org) web site.
2. The FSPS will consist of four modules:
	1. **Application module**. An online, web-based electronic application for rooftop solar photovoltaic systems. The application will be titled***Sun ePermi*t** application.
	2. **Electrical module.**  This module’s input will be select information from the FSPS application. The module’s output will be on-demand technical specifications for solar panels, inverters, and electrical technical schematics that match structural specifications produced by the Structural module and other related application requirements.
	3. **Structural module.** This module’s input will be select information from the FSPS application. Using engineering algorithms based on building code requirements, this module’s output will be on-demand mount system technical specifications matching the electrical specifications produced by the Electrical module and other related application requirements.
	4. **Packaging Module.** Combines the output of the Application, Electrical, and Structural modules into a final electronic permit package that will include permit card, technical specifications, and other required permitting documentation, all branded for the applicable AHJ.
3. The FSEC certified permit package will be delivered to the AHJ electronically through the FSPS for immediate permit issuance.
4. Responsibilities
	1. FSEC will produce the electrical module.
	2. Miami-Dade County will produce the structural module and related algorithms.
	3. Broward County will produce the application and packaging modules and the web interface.
	4. Under authority granted in [Section 377.705](http://www.flsenate.gov/laws/statutes/2011/377.705), FSEC will certify the electrical and structural module output as meeting FSEC standards, and deemed compliant with the building code.
5. Givens
	1. FSPS will be fully electronic, from application to permit issuance.
	2. The goal is for FSEC to own FSPS and ensure its long term viability.
	3. To limit implementation and go live challenges, the FSPS beta version will be limited as follows:
		1. Generally, options and variability will be sacrificed as necessary to ensure successful and timely implementation.
		2. Only lower output (5 – 10 kW) systems will be supported.
		3. Residential only.
		4. Only certified and licensed contractors, as dictated by applicable AHJ licensing requirements, can use the system.
		5. Only rooftop solar PV systems will be permitted through FSPS.
		6. To the extent practicable, all AHJs will charge the same permitting fee.
	4. FSPS protocols will be established during the grant period that outline how future partners can connect to FSPS.
	5. FSPS will include solar financing options, developed by the Go Solar – Florida team. Thus, FSPS will provide all necessary services to obtain and permit a solar energy system.
	6. A single permit, branded with the partner AHJ and ***Sun ePermi*t** brand, will be issued by the FSPS.
	7. Field inspectors are the fail-safe for noncompliant solar PV installations.
6. Open questions
	1. Who will host FSPS?
	2. How will FSPS be maintained and grow, in terms of permit variability, permit complexity, and number of subscribing AHJs?
	3. Who will provide FSPS technical support?
	4. Is there a need for and willingness to reallocate budget?
	5. Can FSEC deem compliant with the building code?
	6. How will each AHJ confirm contractors pulling permits within its jurisdiction are properly licensed and insured?
	7. How will building officials accept FSEC certification as plans permitted under their authority without interfering with the fully electronic processing and issuance of the permit?
	8. Will we have a two tier system – high velocity part of the state and low velocity part of the state?