

# Go Solar Florida Update



February 19, 2015 Climate Change Task Force Meeting



# Go SOLAR Florida Rooftop Solar Challenge



1. \$2.25 million grant awarded in 2013 by U.S. Department of Energy
2. Broward County is grant administrator
3. 4 partner counties and the Florida Solar Energy Center
4. Collaborating to make solar rooftop systems easier, faster and cheaper for residents and businesses
  - a. Through streamlined, electronic permitting system that utilizes pre-approved design plans
  - b. Standardized solar related zoning ordinances
  - c. Enhanced availability of financial options
  - d. Aggressive marketing and education on solar issues

# Go SOLAR Florida Accomplishments

## Permitting

- Team has created solar permitting and plans generation solution
- Solution will create a single, standardized online permitting system that produces permit ready package (electrical & structural drawings)

## Financing

- Florida Solar Financing Action Plan created
- Pros and Cons Matrix of Financial Options created
- Sample resolution created
- Partners adopting Action Plan
- Action Plan will be distributed to all 67 Florida Counties requesting their support

## Zoning

- Planning & Zoning Best Practices document created with input from Team
- Model Zoning Ordinance Created
- Partners Adopting solar-friendly zoning ordinances

## Marketing

- Go Solar Fest Jan 2013
- Second Annual Go SOLAR & Renewable Energy Fest June 2014
- Marketing Plan
- Web site
- Solar Rights workshops

# Permitting

## System Design and Plans Generation

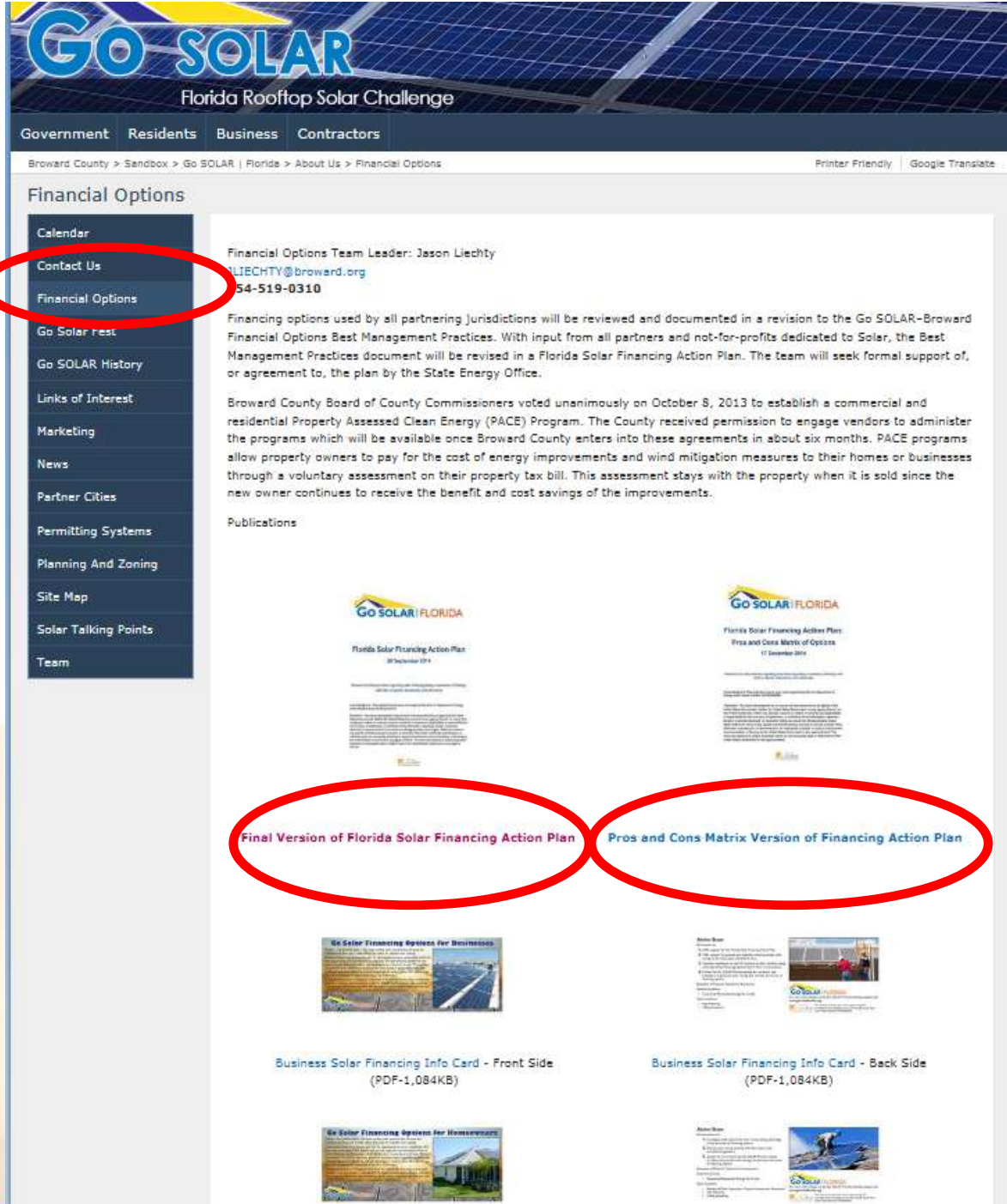
- Electronic PV Design Manual (e-PVDM)
- Prepare a complete set of plans ready for permitting with minimal user inputs
- Develop a simple, easy to use interface
- Standardize the plans set for review, installation, inspection, and maintenance
- Built-in flexibility to remains current and not subject to limitations of pre-engineered plans



# Go SOLAR Florida Industry Advisory Council

- Recognized need for industry input as we develop plans system
- Formed with industry leaders from around the state
- Already met twice
- Enthusiastic response to assist us to create plans system that meets their needs

# Financing Options



**GO SOLAR**  
Florida Rooftop Solar Challenge

Government Residents Business Contractors

Broward County > Sandbox > Go SOLAR | Florida > About Us > Financial Options Printer Friendly | Google Translate

### Financial Options

- Calendar
- Contact Us**
- Financial Options
- Go Solar rest
- Go SOLAR History
- Links of Interest
- Marketing
- News
- Partner Cities
- Permitting Systems
- Planning And Zoning
- Site Map
- Solar Talking Points
- Team

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Financing options used by all partnering jurisdictions will be reviewed and documented in a revision to the Go SOLAR-Broward Financial Options Best Management Practices. With input from all partners and not-for-profits dedicated to Solar, the Best Management Practices document will be revised in a Florida Solar Financing Action Plan. The team will seek formal support of, or agreement to, the plan by the State Energy Office.

Broward County Board of County Commissioners voted unanimously on October 8, 2013 to establish a commercial and residential Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program. The County received permission to engage vendors to administer the programs which will be available once Broward County enters into these agreements in about six months. PACE programs allow property owners to pay for the cost of energy improvements and wind mitigation measures to their homes or businesses through a voluntary assessment on their property tax bill. This assessment stays with the property when it is sold since the new owner continues to receive the benefit and cost savings of the improvements.

Publications

- Final Version of Florida Solar Financing Action Plan**
- Pros and Cons Matrix Version of Financing Action Plan**

Business Solar Financing Info Card - Front Side (PDF-1,084KB)

Business Solar Financing Info Card - Back Side (PDF-1,084KB)

# Planning and Zoning

## Model Zoning Ordinance

Deadline for adoption of solar-friendly zoning ordinance and amendments -- March 31, 2015

- Broward County – June 26, 2012
- Alachua County – September 23, 2014
- Orange County – expected end of March
- Miami-Dade reviewed the model zoning ordinance and concluded that the Miami-Dade zoning code does not need to be amended

# Marketing & Education

- Website [www.gosolarflorida.org](http://www.gosolarflorida.org)
- Go SOLAR Fest
- Second Annual Go SOLAR & Renewable Energy Fest
- Third Annual Go SOLAR & Renewable Energy Fest
- Marketing Plan
- 4 Solar Rights workshops
- Net Metering/Interconnection Workshop
- Newsletters



# Second Annual Go SOLAR & Renewable Energy Fest

- ✓ June 6 & 7, 2014
- ✓ Broward County Convention Center
- ✓ Attendance was FREE
- ✓ 65 local, national, and international renewable energy exhibitors
- ✓ 42 esteemed speakers
- ✓ More than 1,700 attendees over the 2-day event




## How Go SOLAR Florida Fits in Broward and the Region's Big Picture

More regional


**Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact (SFRCCC) (12/09)**

- ✓ Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe and Palm Beach Counties actions in response to Climate Change
- ✓ Strong collaboration between counties representing 6 million residents



**SFRCCC Action Plan (5/12)**

- ✓ Local policies to increase renewable energy capacity and reduce consumption of electricity and fuel
- ✓ Support legislation on statewide energy and climate change policy



**Go SOLAR FLORIDA gosolarflorida.org a SunShot Program (10/13 – 3/16)**

- ✓ Alachua, Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Orange Counties, FAU and Florida Solar Energy Center
- ✓ New generation solar permitting
- ✓ Solar financing options



**Department of Energy Climate Action Champions for Leadership (12/14)**


- ✓ Partnering with federal government to make progress on climate change
- ✓ Peer-to-peer coordination
- ✓ SunShot initiative
- ✓ Education and outreach




More local


**Broward County Climate Change Action Plan (5/10)**

- ✓ Broward actions in response to Climate Change



**Broward County Resolution 2014-054 (2/14)**


- ✓ Support President Obama's Climate Action Plan
- ✓ County government renewable energy portfolio of 20%
- ✓ 2.5% annual energy efficiency improvements in County Buildings through 2020



**Broward County Renewable Energy Action Plan (10/14)**

- ✓ Five renewable energy projects, including five solar based
  1. Tradewinds park sustainable farm
  2. FPL Community Solar (Young at Art Museum)
  3. Government Center West Solar Carport
  4. PV at Lauderhill Transit Center
- ✓ Incorporate renewable energy into capital budget and planning processes
- ✓ Community outreach



 - Includes significant solar component

# What is Next for Go SOLAR Florida?

- Receive “Go” from DOE for 2nd budget period
- Complete the permitting/plans system, Go live
- Fine-tune the plans system
- More plans entered into system
- More permits issued utilizing our system by jurisdictions in Alachua, Broward, Miami, Monroe and Orange Counties

# What's Next? (cont.)

- Contractors are impressed
- Building officials embrace consistent format of plans
- Standardize solar permitting within each county
- Third Go SOLAR Fest
- Conduct at least 2 more workshops on solar rights
- Conduct one state-wide financial options workshop



**For more information:**  
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# Any Questions?