

# Solar Policy Opportunities



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# Challenges to Counties

- Generally not a utility (dsm, net metering etc)
- Energy codes preempted by State

## What roles can counties play?

- Community input
- Financing incentives (Berkeley First, rebates)
- Public Education
- Influence state and nation policies

# Policy Opportunities

- Close net metering “loop hole”
- Ease regulation of solar installation
- FL solar rebate – cash flow
- Streamline solar certification
- Statewide RED policy

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# Close net metering “loop hole”

## Issue

- PSC 25-6.065 has loophole allowing for net metering to be applied per meter, not per customer

## Background

- Excess energy produced by meter will be credited and applied next month or paid at the end of the year “**at the available rate**”
- Solar connected to single meter, while customer may have more than one
- Generation can surpass use on single meter
- Utility pays net meter rate/whole sale (often 4-6 cents per kWh), but charges remaining meters fully rate (10-15 cents)

## Possible Solution

- Net metering to apply per customer not meter (single or multi property)
- Require net meter rate to equal retail rate



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# Ease regulation of installation

## Issue

- Installers must be licensed contractor, manufactures are not

## Background

- DBPR regulates licensed contractors
- Worries manufactures, warranties typically based on certified manufacture installer

## Possible Solution

- Allow manufactures to pre-approve solar product to install
- Model Senator Bennett's policy on pre-manufactured homes

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# FL solar rebate – cash flow

## Issue

- Rebate (\$4 per watt, max \$20k res and \$100k comm) provided after install is certified
- Risk of funds running out

## Background

- Funds are 1<sup>st</sup> come 1<sup>st</sup> serve
- Applicant must absorb the financing for the full project while waiting
- No guarantee of rebate

## Possible Solution

- Allow commitment from certified installer
- CA and NJ follow this model

# FL solar rebate – cash flow(2)

## Issue

- Qualified applicants unable to assign rebate to 3<sup>rd</sup> party lender
- No guarantee that rebate will be put towards solar debt

## Background

- FS 377.806 established the rebate program

## Possible Solution

- Correct language

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# Streamline solar certification

## Issue

- FSEC certifies solar systems , currently 2 year backlog
- New technology evolving quickly

## Background

- FSEC is a research institute of UCF established by Leg in 1976
- Mission to research and develop tech, educate the results
- Solar Rating & Certification Corp (SRCC) already certifies on nation level

## Possible Solution

- Clarify role of FSEC

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# Statewide RED policy

## Issue

- Renewable Energy Dividend (aka FIT, Production Based Incentive) state-wide program to ensure development of solar and renewables

## Background

- Producers of renewable energy paid a premium rate for renewable power generated
- Contract long-term guarantee for stability
- Utility recoup cost of incentive to spread around to all customers
- Gainesville is leader in US

## Possible Solution

- Support efforts of FARE, FL- SEIA etc

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