

Governor Ron DeSantis
Speaker of the House Jose Oliva
Florida Senate President Bill Galvano

As Mayor and City Council of Venice we are urging the State of Florida to enact the necessary legislation that will encourage individual home owners, municipal utilities, commercial establishments, developers and electric cooperatives authorities the wider use of solar energy. While the power utilities have created new sources of solar power they have through their monopoly created an uneven distribution system.. The state should take action that will offer substantial incentives to allow the consumer to expand their involvement in solar energy

A recent study has show a mark increase in business and individual customers installing solar power. The solar industry is continuing to grow throughout all areas of the state. Recent statics show direct sales of nearly 2 billion creating over 20,000 new jobs. This has created a economic benefit to the state gross production of over 1.7 billion. Also the increased use of individual solar has created a substantial reduction in the electric charges along with an increase in home resale values. Locally our region is benefiting from the creation of such communities as Babcock Ranch, Cortez Village along with the planned revised Selby Gardens. Yet, despite this there remains a vast area for growth as Florida runs third in the nation for solar potential.

It is vital that the State continue to encourage licensed utilities involvement in solar. It is even more vital and essential that the state provide a fair and impartial field for "private" or "customer-owned solar" or "universal solar" Such actions will provide an incentive for all Florida family utility customers, established and future business to receive the benefits of solar development. Thus we encourage the following actions be

taken that

1. Substantially increases the rate of reimbursement to .20 cents per kilowatt and reduce the evaluation period to six months by power companies for the buy back of excessive solar power as an incentive for greater involvement by individual home owners, municipal utilities, commercial establishments, developers and electric cooperatives authorities

2. reestablish effective energy credits for individual home owners, municipal utilities, commercial establishments, developers and electric cooperatives to be bought and sold throughout the country

3. reestablish and increase state government incentives such as subsidies and cash rebates for all new and expanded solar projects for individual homeowners, municipal utilities, commercial establishments, developers and various electric cooperatives.

4. elimination of any government fees associated with applications by individual home owners, municipal utilities, commercial establishments, developers and electric cooperatives

The city of Venice looks forward in working with the Governor's office and the legislative body in providing fair and equitable incentives for solar use to achieve a safe and sustainable environment.