



SOLAR ENERGY TAKES CENTRAL FLORIDA BY STORM

Two solar projects in Central Florida are set to go online as a part of the Florida Municipal Power Agency's (FMPA) Florida Municipal Solar Project (FMSP). Together, Harmony Solar Energy Center and Taylor Creek Solar Energy Center have nearly 600,000 solar panels installed on over 1,500 acres. Three other affiliated solar sites are expected go online in 2023 and will create roughly 600 temporary construction jobs. In total, the project boasts 1.5 million solar panels that span five farms and will generate nearly 375 MW of zero-emissions energy, enough to meet the annual energy needs of 30,000 homes.

BY THE NUMBERS

- **1,500,000** solar panels
- **433,770** metric tons CO₂ decreased annually
- **375 MW** solar energy

COMMUNITY IMPACT

The solar energy farms represent the first large utility-scale solar project for FMPA and its members. Participating cities are all member-owners of FMPA along with 15 other municipal utilities. The locally owned and operated structure helps to keep energy costs low, while the municipal utility contributes to the cities' general revenues in lieu of taxes, helping to offset local property taxes.

The project is one of the largest municipal-backed solar projects in the nation with a major benefit: no upfront cost to cities or consumers. According to FMPA, the cost of solar power from the project is approximately one-third of a typical private, rooftop solar system. Since consumers don't have to put any solar panels on their homes, they avoid the upfront installation costs typically affiliated with solar energy. Instead, consumers select the percentage of their power they want supplied by solar, at costs lower than conventional coal- and natural gas-powered plants.

Sixteen local utilities up and down the coast of Florida will purchase power from the project, with the savings translating to enhanced quality of life for the communities they serve via new job prospects, reduced emissions and improved infrastructure.

SUPPORT MORE PROJECTS LIKE THESE

Making the investment tax credit (ITC) for solar refundable and providing incentives and technical assistance to help municipal electric utilities co-invest in advanced energy development can bring more projects like this to Florida.