**Florida Solar Financing Action Plan**

**Outline**

**Introduction and Background**

Disclaimer: focus on solar PV, not solar thermal or other renewables

Purpose/goals/constraints

* Actionable by local government
* Second section: policy recommendations for state/federal governments

Go Solar Florida background/summary

Financial Committee Best Practices report summary

**Part I – Local Tools**

* Direct action by local governments in their own facilities and operations
  + Project investments
    - Renewable energy goals (e.g. Broward County’s 20 percent renewable energy goal)
  + LEED standard requirements for government buildings—may include solar
* Local code requirements (solar requirements just like there are parking requirements)
  + e.g. Lancaster, California (mandatory solar on new residential)
* Property Assessed Clean Energy programs
  + Join existing statewide program
  + Create own program
* Low-interest loans
  + Individual jurisdictions (e.g. [Lauderhill](http://www.lauderhill-fl.gov/news-events/interest-free-loans))
  + Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs)
    - [Solar and Energy Loan Fund](http://cleanenergyloanprogram.org/)
* Economic-incentive programs
  + Local governments could rebate tangible personal property tax to solar leasing companies as economic incentive (considering that solar development would not happen but for this rebate, the county or city would not be losing any revenue – similar to the way TIF works)
  + PV production credit
  + Other incentives
* Bulk purchases
  + e.g. Solar Chicago (<http://www.mygroupenergy.com/group/solarchicago/>)
* Solar leasing
  + Not yet widespread in Florida, but it could if conditions change (e.g. reduction in tangible personal property tax burden, continued declines in the cost of solar equipment and installation, etc.)
* Utility incentives
  + Municipal utilities
    - Net metering
    - Feed-in tariff
    - Solar leasing
    - Community solar
  + Investor-owned utilities
* FPL
  + None (solar incentive program eliminated this year)
* Duke
  + ?
* Gulf Power
  + ?
* Tampa Electric
  + ?
* Florida Public Utilities Corporation
  + ?

**Part II - State and Federal Tools**

State incentives

* [Net metering](http://www.dsireusa.org/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive_Code=FL19R)
* Other incentives/rebates have expired or been eliminated
  + e.g. statutory basis for solar rebate deleted from Florida Statutes during 2014 legislative session; rebates had not been funded for several years

Federal incentives

* [Residential renewable energy tax credit](http://energy.gov/savings/residential-renewable-energy-tax-credit) (30 percent – expires at end of 2016)
* [PowerSaver loans](http://energy.gov/eere/buildings/powersaver-loans) for homeowners

**Part III - Policy Recommendations for State and Federal Government**

State-level recommendations (could be Public Service Commission and/or legislature, depending on issue)

* Lawmaking/rulemaking to expand definition of pollution control devices to include solar PV systems, to allow for salvage-value property assessments, which reduces the tax burden on solar leasing companies that would otherwise have to pay full tangible personal property tax
* Constitutional amendment to exempt renewable energy systems on commercial properties from property taxation and to exempt leased renewable energy systems from the tangible personal property tax
* Renewable portfolio standard
* Allowing power purchase agreements/third-party financing

Federal-level recommendations

* Extend federal residential tax credit
* Re-establish commercial tax credit
* Lift PACE restrictions