A Look at Amendment 4: Expanding Solar in the Sunshine State

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Solar Terms

**Supply Side Solar**: larger system sizes – can be utility-owned, or owned by a non-utility. All of the power generated goes to the utility’s grid. If a non-utility-owned – power sold directly to the power company through a power purchase agreement (PPA).

**Demand Side Solar**: solar power system on customer’s property, also referred to as “behind the meter.” Offsets customer’s load and can send excess power to the grid and get a credit through a net metering policy.
Net Metering: Exact policies vary depending on your utility, but the basic policy is what allows solar customers to get credit for the energy that they are generating.

R.25-6.065, F.A.C.
Solar Potential
Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory

Annual average solar resource data are shown for a flat, latitude collector. The data for Hawaii and the 48 contiguous states are 10 km satellite modeled dataset (SUNY/NREL, 2007) representing data from 1996-2009. The data for Alaska are a 40 km dataset produced by the Climatological Solar Radiation Model (NREL, 2003).

This map was produced by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory for the U.S. Department of Energy.

Billy J. Roberts
19 September 2012
Solar Costs Drop; Solar Scales Up
Source: SEIA
Florida has 9 million electricity customers and approximately 11,600 solar rooftop solar systems.

New Jersey has over 43,000 solar rooftop solar systems with half the population and a weaker solar resource.

Florida ranked 17th in total MWs of solar installed in 2015.
Solar PV by State
Source: SEIA

2015 Year-End Cumulative Solar PV Capacity (MW-dc)
- California, 11,987
- New Jersey, 1,631
- North Carolina, 2,087
- Arizona, 2,020
- New York, 638
- Massachusetts, 1,037
- Nevada, 1,041
- Hawaii, 557
- Colorado, 542
- Texas, 537
- Others, 3,519
Why Not More Solar?

BARRIERS TO SOLAR IN FLORIDA:

- **Third Party Sales** To Customers Prohibited in Florida.
  - Section 366.02, F.S. / *PW Ventures v. Nichols*
  - Floridians for Solar Choice initiative

- **Tax Burden** – Current Florida tax policy places financial burden on residential solar leases, as well as commercial and utility scale solar installations.

*Amendment 4 Removes the Tax Barrier*
What Will Amend. 4 Do?

NO. 4
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
ARTICLE VII, SECTIONS 3 AND 4
ARTICLE XII, SECTION 34

Solar Devices or Renewable Energy Source Devices; Exemption From Certain Taxation and Assessment

Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to authorize the Legislature, by general law, to exempt from ad valorem taxation the assessed value of solar or renewable energy source devices subject to tangible personal property tax, and to authorize the Legislature, by general law, to prohibit consideration of such devices in assessing the value of real property for ad valorem taxation purposes. This amendment takes effect January 1, 2018, and expires on December 31, 2037.
Why is it important?

A YES vote on Amendment 4 would lower the cost of solar energy in Florida by removing burdensome taxes that currently exist for solar.

- Solar leases impacted by tangible personal property tax.
- Commercial and Industrial solar installations impacted by both tangible personal property tax and increases in real property tax assessments.
- Solar system w/ $20,000 value x 2% millage rate = $400 first yr. tangible personal property tax.

Amendment 4 would get rid of these taxes for 20 years and make solar power more affordable and accessible for everyone.
How Did Amendment 4 Appear on the Ballot?

Section 1, Article XI, Florida Constitution.

HJR 193 passed unanimously through both chambers.
Don’t mistake Amendment 4 in August with Amendment 1 in November!

Amendment 1 – November 8 General Election Ballot

Rights of Electricity Consumers Regarding Solar Energy Choice
- This amendment establishes a right under Florida's constitution for consumers to own or lease solar equipment installed on their property to generate electricity for their own use. State and local governments shall retain their abilities to protect consumer rights and public health, safety and welfare, and to ensure that consumers who do not choose to install solar are not required to subsidize the costs of backup power and electric grid access to those who do.
What’s Next for Amendment 4?

• Amendment 4 is on the ballot in the **August 30, 2016 Primary Election**

• It must pass by a minimum 60% majority

• In 2017 session, the legislature will address implementation of the proposal
HOW TO VOTE 4 SOLAR

1 Register to vote by mail at FloridaSolarVoter.com
2 Mark your calendar for early voting August 20 - 27
3 Head to the polls August 30
4 Share this on social media

YesOn4.org
Get Involved

• Spread the word
  • Send an email blast to your mailing list
  • Hand out palm cards at events, at polls
  • Join phone banking teams

Materials & Sign Up Form available at: YesOn4.org