

RESOLUTION 2018-30178

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING, IN CONCEPT, SOLAR PURCHASING CO-OPS.

WHEREAS, solar energy allows citizens to move energy consumption to a more environmentally friendly source and provides a self-sustaining, pollution-free form of energy; and

WHEREAS, among South Florida homeowners, there is growing interest in installing solar panels on homes, in reducing energy bills, in generating pollution-free renewable energy, and in being resilient to storms; and

WHEREAS, elsewhere in Florida and in other parts of the country, neighborhood solar purchasing co-ops have been created through entities such as Florida Solar United Neighborhoods (FL SUN); and

WHEREAS, solar purchasing co-ops are voluntary groups that may buy solar panels or other solar infrastructure in bulk for their members as a way to make solar power more affordable and accessible to solar co-op members; and

WHEREAS, FL SUN is one of five regional programs run by the not-for-profit organization, Community Power Network which educates Floridians about the benefits of distributed solar energy, helping them to organize group solar installations; and

WHEREAS, FL SUN has established solar purchasing co-ops in Broward County, Sarasota County, Orange County, St. Petersburg, and the Space Coast region; and

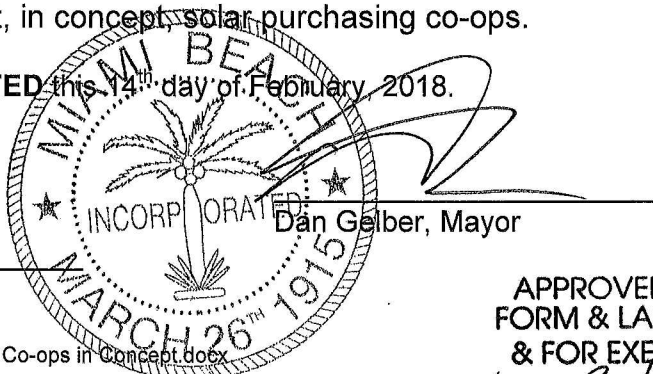
WHEREAS, FL SUN is in the process of setting up several solar purchasing co-ops in Miami-Dade County, and property owners who are interested in solar power may benefit from being able to choose to be part of a solar co-op; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission wish to support, in concept, solar purchasing co-ops which educate and assist homeowners with regard to solar energy installations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby support, in concept, solar purchasing co-ops.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 14th day of February, 2018.

ATTEST: [Signature] 2/27/18 Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM & LANGUAGE & FOR EXECUTION

[Signature] 2/5/18 City Attorney Date

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
FROM: Raul J. Aguila, City Attorney
DATE: February 14, 2018

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING, IN CONCEPT, SOLAR PURCHASING CO-OPS.

RECOMMENDATION

Pursuant to the request of Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez, the above-referenced Resolution is submitted for consideration by the Mayor and City Commission at the February 14, 2018 City Commission meeting.

Legislative Tracking

Office of the City Attorney

Sponsor

Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

- ▣ Resolution



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Nonprofit Community Power Network becomes Solar United Neighbors and launches membership program

By Kathie Zipp | October 4, 2017

Today marks Community Power Network's launch as Solar United Neighbors. This new name better reflects the unified actions of nine state-based programs working together to build a new energy system with rooftop solar as the cornerstone. Along with the new name, Solar United Neighbors has developed a paid membership program that will help more people go solar and support their long-term needs in a way no existing organization does.

"We envision a clean, equitable energy system that directs control and benefits back to local communities, with solar on every roof and money in every pocket," said Anya Schoolman, Solar United Neighbors' Executive Director. "Changing our name to Solar United Neighbors reflects our desire to help more people go solar and build a nationwide force of solar supporters to fight for our energy rights."

Solar United Neighbors will lead the fight against monopoly utilities that are pushing against rooftop solar in an attempt to protect their outdated business model. Solar owners and prospective owners have in Solar United Neighbors a vehicle to create a powerful constituency for solar.

The organization traces its roots to the first solar co-op in the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood of Washington, D.C. That group helped more than 40 homes go solar. Word of the co-op and its success spread quickly and soon solar co-ops sprouted across the District.

Solar co-ops provide participants an opportunity to learn about solar technology and the process of going solar. Co-op participants pool their bulk purchasing power to select one installer through an open, competitive bidding process. Co-op participants compare each proposal and decide which is best for the group. This process ensures co-op participants receive a quality installation at the best available price.

through a dedicated help desk that will answer questions regarding their system's performance and receive help to understand emerging technologies and new incentives. The cost of membership is \$85 per year. Solar co-op participants receive a complimentary membership throughout their co-op process.

Solar United Neighbors programs have helped more than 2,200 homes go solar, generating \$40 million in solar investment and saving co-op participants more than \$8 million.

News item from Solar United Neighbors



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Kathie Zipp

Kathie Zipp is senior editor of Solar Power World.



Tell Us What You Think!

MIAMI BEACH

City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov
Office of the City Clerk
Tel: 305-673-7411

March 2, 2018

Solar United Neighbors of Florida
Anya Schoolman, Executive Director
1115 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Executive Director Schoolman,

Attached please find a copy of City of Miami Beach Resolution No. 2018-30178:

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY
OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING, IN CONCEPT, SOLAR
PURCHASING CO-OPS.

This Resolution was unanimously passed and adopted by the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Miami Beach on February 14, 2018.

Respectfully,



Rafael E. Granado
City Clerk

c: Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez