

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-18

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF PINECREST, FLORIDA, ENCOURAGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO CUSTOMER-SITED SOLAR POWER AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE FLORIDIANS FOR SOLAR CHOICE BALLOT PETITION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, solar power generates electricity with zero air emissions and no water use, thereby moving the county, state, and country to a cleaner and more sustainable energy future; and

WHEREAS, Florida has the greatest potential for rooftop solar power of any state in the eastern United States but lags in realizing that potential; with 9 million electric utility customer accounts, Florida has only 6,000 customer-sited solar systems.ⁱ Less sunny states like New Jersey have over 30,000 customer-sited solar systems but only half the population of Florida; and

WHEREAS, Florida is one of only five states in the United States that by law expressly denies citizens and businesses the freedom to buy solar power electricity directly from someone other than a power companyⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, allowing non-utility solar providers to provide solar generated electricity, through a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), directly to customers can remove the upfront cost for solar power systems to homeowners and expand solar power options to residential and commercial tenants – thereby expanding the choice for solar power to all Floridians; and

WHEREAS, in states, such as New York or New Jersey, where non-utilities can provide solar generated power directly to customers, there has been significant solar development in the residential sector. Such arrangements have driven anywhere from 67% (New York) to 92% (New Jersey) of residential installations in those states;ⁱⁱⁱ and

WHEREAS, Florida spends about \$58 billion each year buying carbon-based fuels from other states and countries to power our homes, businesses and cars, while solar power will keep energy dollars here at home and create good paying local jobs; and

WHEREAS, in a recent poll, 74% of Florida voters said they support a proposal to change the state's current law and allow Floridians to contract directly with solar power providers for their electricity. Removing barriers to solar choice will allow more Floridians to take advantage of the power of the sun;^{iv}

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF PINECREST, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:


Section 1. That the Village Council hereby urges the Florida Legislature to remove barriers that limits the sale of solar-generated electricity directly to a customer by anyone other than a power company and supporting the *Floridians for Solar Choice* ballot petition to amend the Florida Constitution to remove the barrier to customer-sited solar power.

Section 2. This resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 17th day of March, 2015.


Cindy Lerner, Mayor

Attest:


Guido H. Inguanzo, Jr., CMC
Village Clerk

Approved as to Form and Legal Sufficiency:


Mitchell Bierman
Village Attorney



Motion by: Councilmember McDonald
Second by: Vice Mayor Ross

Vote: Councilmembers Ball, Kraft, McDonald, Vice Mayor Ross, and Mayor Lerner voting Yes

ⁱ Florida Public Service Commission, *Reporting Requirements for Interconnection and Net Metering Customer-owned Renewable Generation*, at: <http://www.psc.state.fl.us/utilities/electricgas/customerrenewable/2013/2013%20Net%20Metering%20Summary%20Spreadsheet/2013%20Net%20Metering%20Chart.pdf>
ⁱⁱ Department of Energy, et. al, *Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency*, at http://www.dsireusa.org/documents/summarymaps/3rd_Party_PPA_Map.pdf
ⁱⁱⁱ SEIA-GTM. *U.S. Solar Market Insight Report: Q3 2014*.
^{iv} Northstar Opinion Research, *Survey of Florida Registered Voters*, October 2014, at: http://www.cleanenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/FL_Energy_Presentation_for_Release.pdf