

# Why Florida needs solar Power Purchase Agreements

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Imagine powering our communities with cost-effective, clean solar energy.

Middlesex County Public Schools in Virginia did just that. Its three schools are 100% solar-powered. This will save taxpayers \$4.74 million dollars.<sup>1</sup> By installing solar, a school district in Fishers, Indiana is saving \$310,000 a year. They used this money to build new playgrounds and educate students about renewable energy.<sup>2</sup>

These successes are due to a financing tool called a **Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)**. **PPAs allow businesses, governments, and non-profits to benefit from solar energy.** PPAs are legal in most states including Georgia, Texas, Arkansas, and Arizona.

They are **not currently available in Florida**. Our legislature needs to make Power Purchase Agreements legal.

Here's why:

## How do Power Purchase Agreements work?

- A developer installs, owns, and operates a solar system on the customer's property.
- The customer purchases the system's electric output at a fixed rate. This is generally a lower rate than what they pay to their utility.
- The PPA contract lasts for a fixed period, usually 15-25 years.

## How do PPAs benefit customers?

- PPAs allow schools, places of worship, and other nonprofits to benefit from solar with low to no upfront cost.
- Customers can see electric bill savings from day one.
- They lock in their energy rates. This stabilizes monthly budget expenditures and protects them from utility rate increases.

## How can PPAs benefit Florida?

- Increase access to solar. States that allow third-party PPAs account for 93% of the increase in American solar capacity since 2015.<sup>3</sup>
- Create good local jobs in a rapidly growing industry. (Solar PV installer is the fastest-growing occupation in the nation.<sup>4</sup>
- Attract employers to locate and invest in Florida. More than 200 major global corporations have made corporate commitments to use 100% renewable energy.<sup>5</sup>

For more information, or to learn how to get involved, contact Solar United Neighbors:

[flteam@solarunitedneighbors.org](mailto:flteam@solarunitedneighbors.org).

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<sup>1</sup> Source: *Downstream Strategies* [Power Purchase Agreements](https://bit.ly/3d4QqVW) - <https://bit.ly/3d4QqVW>

<sup>2</sup> Source: *Generation 180* [There's a nationwide school budget crisis. Solar can help.](https://bit.ly/2UWahki) - <https://bit.ly/2UWahki>

<sup>3</sup> Sources: U.S. Energy Information Administration [Electric Power Monthly](https://bit.ly/2QrRufn) - <https://bit.ly/2QrRufn>; [Customer First Renewables](https://bit.ly/2FR3VNX) - <https://bit.ly/2FR3VNX>; [DSIRE](https://bit.ly/2P8aXNC) - <https://bit.ly/2P8aXNC>

<sup>4</sup> Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics [Occupational Outlook Handbook](https://bit.ly/2o3YMrh) - <https://bit.ly/2o3YMrh>

<sup>5</sup> Source: [Re100](https://bit.ly/1KpYyW0) - <https://bit.ly/1KpYyW0>