



# Everglades Coalition

## Resolution by the Everglades Coalition

### to support removing barriers to customer-sited solar power and support for the Floridians for Solar Choice ballot petition

1000 Friends of Florida  
Arthur R. Marshall Foundation  
Audubon  
Audubon Florida  
Audubon of the Everglades  
Audubon of Southwest Florida  
Audubon of the Western Everglades  
Caloosahatchee River Citizens  
Association / Riverwatch  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Clean Water Action  
Conservancy of Southwest Florida  
Defenders of Wildlife  
“Ding” Darling Wildlife Society  
Earthjustice  
Environment Florida  
Everglades Coordinating Council  
Everglades Foundation  
Everglades Law Center  
Everglades Trust  
Florida Conservation Alliance  
Florida Defenders of the Environment  
Florida Keys Environmental Fund  
Florida Native Plant Society  
Florida Oceanographic Society  
Florida Wildlife Federation  
Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall  
Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge  
Friends of the Everglades  
Hendry Glades Audubon Society  
Institute for Regional Conservation  
Izaak Walton League Florida Division  
Izaak Walton League Florida Keys Chapter  
Izaak Walton League Mangrove Chapter  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Last Stand  
League of Women Voters of Florida  
Loxahatchee River Coalition  
Martin County Conservation Alliance  
Miami Waterkeeper  
National Parks Conservation Association  
National Wildlife Federation  
National Wildlife Refuge Association  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Ocean Research & Conservation Association  
Reef Relief  
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation  
Save It Now, Glades!  
Sierra Club  
Sierra Club Broward Group  
Sierra Club Calusa Group  
Sierra Club Central Florida Group  
Sierra Club Florida Chapter  
Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group  
Sierra Club Miami Group  
Snook and Gamefish Foundation  
South Florida Audubon Society  
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy  
Tropical Audubon Society  
The Urban Environment League of  
Greater Miami

**WHEREAS**, the Everglades ecosystem has competing demands for water, including from the power sector, and water quality and quantity are critical for Everglades restoration;

**WHEREAS**, unlike conventional power generation, solar power generates electricity with zero air emissions and no water use, thereby moving the state to a cleaner and more water-smart and sustainable energy future;

**WHEREAS**, Florida has the greatest potential for rooftop solar power of any state in the eastern United States. Rooftop solar uses existing rooftop infrastructure and has limited or no impacts to land, endangered species, and the terrestrial environment;

**WHEREAS**, yet with 9 million electric utility customer accounts, Florida has a mere 8,546 customer-sited solar systems,<sup>1</sup> in contrast to less sunny states like New Jersey which has over 35,000 customer-sited solar systems<sup>2</sup> but only half the population of Florida;

**WHEREAS**, Florida is one of only four 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 company;

**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 Florida homeowners and businesses and expand solar power options to residential and commercial tenants – thereby expanding the choice for solar power to all Floridians;

**WHEREAS**, in states such as New York and New Jersey, where non-utilities can provide solar generated power directly to customers, there has been significant solar development in the residential sector. It has driven anywhere from 67% (New York) to 92% (New Jersey) of residential installations in those states<sup>3</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, removing barriers to solar choice will allow more Floridians to take advantage of the power of the sun and expand solar rooftop development in Florida moving the state to a cleaner, more water-smart and sustainable energy future that will invariably improve prospects for Everglades restoration; and

*Committed to full protection and restoration of America’s Everglades*

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Everglades Coalition, with its 58 member organizations committed to the full protection and restoration of America's Everglades, urges the Florida Legislature to remove the barrier that limits the sale of solar-generated electricity directly to a customer from anyone other than a power company, and supports the Floridians for Solar Choice ballot petition to amend the Florida Constitution.

Adopted October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015

*Cara Capp*

Cara Capp  
National Co-Chair



Jason Totoiu  
State Co-Chair

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<sup>1</sup> Florida Public Service Commission, *Reporting Requirements for Interconnection and Net Metering for Customer-owned Renewable Generation*, at: <http://www.psc.state.fl.us/utilities/electricgas/customerrenewable/2014/2014%20Net%20Metering%20Summary%20Spreadsheet/2014%20Net%20Metering%20Chart.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> New Jersey's Clean Energy Program, *New Jersey Solar Installation Update*, at: <http://www.njcleanenergy.com/renewable-energy/project-activity-reports/installation-summary-by-technology/solar-installation-projects>

<sup>3</sup> SEIA-GTM. *U.S. Solar Market Insight Report: Q3 2014*.

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