



FAQ: Solar & South Carolina

How much solar potential does South Carolina have?

According to a 2012 study conducted by the SC PURC Energy Advisory Council, our state has up to 1,700 megawatts of near-term solar potential. That translates into about 3% of the electricity used in South Carolina annually.

Is solar competitive with other energy sources?

The cost of solar has plummeted nationwide, even as the price of electricity has increased in states like South Carolina. In fact, South Carolina has the highest electricity rates in the Southeast and some of the highest average electricity bills in the country. Solar is now a proven way for homeowners and businesses to reduce their monthly electricity bills, and analyses out of North Carolina and Georgia have concluded that adding more solar is a cost effective investment that will positively impact utility customers in those states.

How does South Carolina compare to neighboring states?

South Carolina has fallen far behind neighboring states in the region when it comes to installed and planned solar capacity. North Carolina has installed *51 times more solar* (388 megawatts) than South Carolina, and the Georgia Public Service Commission has approved almost *30 times more solar* (785 megawatts) than is currently planned in our state.

What's holding South Carolina back?

Unlike other states, South Carolina has not updated its policies and rules to facilitate consumer access to solar. Laws preventing solar leasing and third party energy sales, rules limiting net energy metering for businesses and colleges, and a lack of utility designed solar programs have left South Carolinians at a disadvantage when it comes to solar investment opportunities.

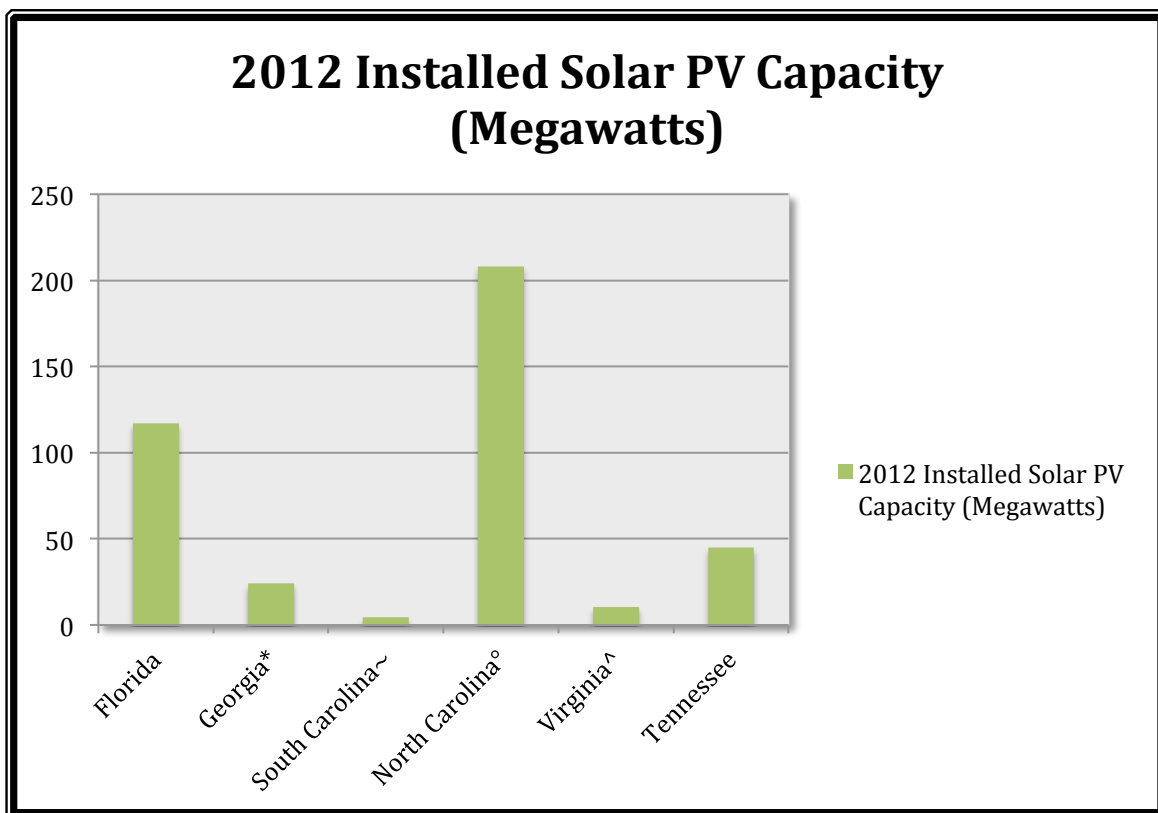
Why should South Carolina become more pro-solar?

Create South Carolina Jobs. The solar industry now employs over 119,000 people nationwide, and South Carolina is missing out on local, high-quality job generation.

Self Reliance, Property Rights, Energy Independence. Using a native fuel like solar keeps money here that would otherwise go out of state or overseas while also encouraging consumer choice and respecting the rights of property owners.

Save South Carolinians Money. Solar is an economic winner for ratepayers and can help the electrical system avoid costly new generation and upgrades. Solar also insulates citizens from price risk with other energy forms.

Recruit Industry. Modern industrial companies like Boeing and BMW seek access to clean energy options. With updated policies and regulations, South Carolina will be better positioned to compete in the global marketplace and attract investment from companies that are committed to clean energy.



- *U.S. Solar Market Trends 2012*, Interstate Renewable Energy Council, Larry Sherwood, 2013, p.20

*The Georgia Public Service Commission has approved an additional 785 megawatts of solar to be deployed by Georgia Power in the next few years

~The Electric Cooperatives of SC and Santee Cooper have partnered on a 3 megawatt solar farm that will come online in 2014, and SCE&G has announced plans to develop 20 megawatts of solar

°North Carolina currently ranks 5th in the nation for installed solar capacity with 388 megawatts

^Virginia has adopted a 50 megawatt solar leasing/third party sales pilot project