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Footnotes Issue #60: June 18th, 2012

## Solar Having its Best Year Ever



Solar is on track to have its best year ever here in the US, with nearly double the megawatts installed last year (3,300MW this year versus 1,700MW last year). To hit 20 percent of our electricity from solar by 2030, we need to be installing about 13,500MW annually, so we still have a ways to go, but the trend is all in the right direction. This year will likely also be the year that more solar came on line than coal, first time ever in the history of American civilization. Most of the growth was in commercial installations (289 MW) compared to residential installations (94 MW) and utility installations (123 MW).

This new report by the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA), which looks at the market growth for solar every quarter, is full of other interesting news. New Jersey took the top prize for installing 174 MW in the first quarter, even more than California, coming in at 148 MW. Georgia was not in the top half of new installations. According to information presented at the annual Georgia Solar Summit last week, Georgia has about 18 MW installed, which is based on how much has applied for and received state tax credits. The SEIA report notes that for the first quarter of 2012, our neighbors Tennessee came in 5th, North Carolina came in 7th, and Florida 14th in total new installations.

Residential installed prices fell 7.3 percent, commercial installed prices fell 11.5 percent, and utility prices fell 24.7 percent over Q1 2011. The overall blended average installed price fell 17.2 percent year-over-year. The future for solar gets brighter every day!

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## Georgia Chapter in the News

T-SPLOST news just won't quit! We found ourselves in Politfact twice in the last month, one checked that [Georgia's gas tax is one of the lowest in the country](#), the other looked at the [16+ miles of new road capacity that will be added for every one track mile of light rail](#). The result? Mostly True.

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## Sierra Club Meetings

**Fundraising Committee**, Wednesday, June 27, 7:00 p.m.  
Clay Tucker - Chair, [tuckerwf12@aol.com](mailto:tuckerwf12@aol.com)

**RAIL**, Wednesday, June 25, 7:00 p.m.  
David Emory - Chair, [david.emory@gmail.com](mailto:david.emory@gmail.com)

**Wildlands and Wildlife Committee Meeting**, Tuesday, July 19, 7:00 p.m.  
Mike Murdock - Chair, [murdock1@mindspring.com](mailto:murdock1@mindspring.com)

**Smart Energy Team Meeting**, Monday, July 2, 7:00 p.m.  
Don Dressel - Chair, [dondressel@gmail.com](mailto:dondressel@gmail.com)

**Atlanta Inner City Outings (ICO),** off for the summer!  
Naomi Bock - Chair, [atlantaico@gmail.com](mailto:atlantaico@gmail.com)

## Upcoming Events

### June 19-21 – PSC Commissioner Echols Alternative Vehicle Roadshow

Ever wondered how to fuel a vehicle without gasoline? The AFV Georgia Roadshow is coming to a [neighborhood or business near you](#), with the experts that will display short presentations on understanding the alternatives to traditional gasoline and how they are helpful, and answer all of your questions on vehicles powered by electricity. June 19 Hall County, Thomasville. June 20 - Dublin, June 21 - Norcross.



### June 21 - Southern Alliance for Clean Energy Biodiesel Station Opens



Celebrate the opening of our [new retail biodiesel station](#) in Atlanta with a ribbon-cutting and grand opening ceremony. Local and federal officials, company representatives, oil providers and biodiesel users throughout the City will be in attendance. Clean Energy Biofuels' retail station is part of the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities I-75 Clean Corridor program, seeking to create the longest alternative fuels corridor in the United States. The retail pump is a partnership of Southern Alliance for Clean Energy and Clean Energy Biofuels. To learn more, click [here](#).

### July 10 – Movie Screening: SWITCH



What will it really take, to go from the energy that built our world, to the energy that will shape our future? SWITCH takes us on a spectacular journey through the world's leading energy sites, from coal to solar, oil to biofuels, as we discover the realities of energy today, investigate the challenge of transitioning to alternatives, and get straight answers from international experts to discover the path to our energy future. Seating is limited and you must RSVP [here](#) to reserve yours; to watch the trailer, click [here](#).

### July 12 – Georgia Interfaith Power & Light Hosts PSC Candidate Forum

Two of our five Public Service Commissioners (the folks who make decisions about how electricity is generated in our state) are up for election this year). Come listen to the candidates perspectives on a wide array of issues at Glenn Memorial Church at Emory University from 7-9 p.m. Click [here](#) for more information.



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