



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#22-0891

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Greg Chavarria, City Manager

DATE: October 3, 2022

TITLE: Resolution Supporting the Broward Solar Co-op and Directing the City Manager to Provide In-kind Support for Informational Meetings and Outreach on the Co-op and Allowing the City of Fort Lauderdale to be Identified as a Partner of the Co-op - **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission adopt the following resolution supporting the Broward Solar Co-op and directing the City Manager to provide in-kind support for informational meetings and outreach on the Co-op and for the City of Fort Lauderdale to be identified as a partner of the Co-op.

Background

In December 2021, the City of Fort Lauderdale Commission set net-zero greenhouse gas emissions goals for government operations and the community. One of the cornerstones of any net-zero effort will be a substantial increase in the use of renewable energy including solar power. To accelerate solar adoption, many communities across the country are launching solar co-op programs.

Solar United Neighbors (SUN) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit Solar Co-op Program based in Washington, D.C. and has been coordinating solar co-ops nationally for over 15 years. Since 2016, SUN has run 70 solar co-ops in Florida and five (5) in Broward County, helping over 2,100 state residents switch to solar. Homeowners in the co-op bundle their buying power to secure competitive pricing and high-quality offerings for rooftop solar equipment for their properties. Co-ops focus on education, outreach, consumer protection, advocacy, and ongoing support for residents switching to solar power. The Co-ops are vendor neutral, and vendors are selected by a panel of co-op participants. There is no fee or obligation for homeowners to sign up and they can join online at [Solarunitedneighbors.org/Florida](https://solarunitedneighbors.org/Florida).

A City of Fort Lauderdale partnership with SUN in support of the current Broward Solar Co-op would entail the following:

- Share and publicize the programming in the community through a variety of communication channels;

- Provide City locations for solar information meetings;
- Share events on social media or assist with events; and
- Allowing SUN to identify the City of Fort Lauderdale as a partner of the Broward Solar Co-op and use the City name and logo for that purpose.

Partnership is free and informal and is a mutual show of support. A partial list of the following municipalities and local governments that have already partnered with SUN include Miami, Miami Beach, Miami-Dade County, Broward County, Sunrise, Boynton Beach, Boca Raton, Coral Gables, St. Petersburg, and Delray Beach. They are listed as partners and their logos appear on the SUN website.

This action is supported by the Sustainability Advisory Board whose June 27, 2022, Communication was reviewed by the Commission on August 16, 2022.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action. Support will consist of in-kind assistance.

Strategic Connections

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024 Strategic Plan*, specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure Focus Area
- Goal 1: Build a sustainable and resilient community.
- Objective: Ensure climate change resiliency and implement mitigation strategies, incorporating partnership actions and cross-jurisdictional plans.
- Objective: Promote energy efficiency and the expansion of renewable energy sources; and

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Ready*.

This item supports the *Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan* specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure Focus Area
- The Climate Change Element
- Goal: 1. Develop mitigation and adaptation strategies to reduce emission that contribute to climate change.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Solar United Neighbors Information Sheets

Exhibit 2 – June 27, 2022, SAB Communication

Exhibit 3 – Resolution

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