



AGENDA ITEM MEMORADUM

Item No. 11d

Town Manager's Office

Bud Bentley

Assistant Town Manager / Development Services

Director BIB

COMMISSION MEETING DATE (*) - 7:00 PM	Deadline to Town Clerk
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aug 23, 2011	Aug 12 th

*Subject to Change

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation | <input type="checkbox"/> Reports | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent | <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution | <input type="checkbox"/> Quasi-Judicial | <input type="checkbox"/> Old Business | <input type="checkbox"/> New Business |

SUBJECT TITLE: Broward County's SunShot Initiative Grant Application

EXPLANATION: The US Department of Energy (DOE) is offering 20-25 grants for projects that foster strategies to overcoming barriers to using photovoltaic (PV) energy in residential and small commercial structures. The DOE has identified a "fragmented policy framework among 18,000 authority-having jurisdictions and 5,000 utilities" as the primary reason that PV costs remain high. The grant's Phase 1 purpose is: (1) to develop, and advocate for, policies that enhance PV market penetration, and; (2) to establish interconnected, streamlined permitting and net metering processes.

Broward County's Description of their Initiative

Broward County and its partners—FPL, Broward Cities, Photovoltaic vendors-- with the support of other partners, would apply for a Phase 1 (and Phase 2) project. Creating a "pilot" database, offering a "one-stop", electronically approved, transparent, and efficient permitting process for all of Broward County and its municipalities, would be the primary focus of Phase 1. Funds would be used to purchase software to effectuate interconnected IT systems in all participating jurisdictions, ensuring effective transition to an electronic permitting process (with the goal of the system's replicability throughout the state). All partners would collaboratively develop specific, aggressive, yet realistic goals to impact the solar market and remain actively engaged as stakeholders throughout the grant. Phase 1 project partners will receive DOE designations as "Solar Friendly and Open for Business". FPL has committed to work closely with subject matter experts to address the grant's goal of improving net metering standards. Advocacy efforts by partners will urge legislation/regulations encouraging use of PV energy and reducing barriers to solar panel installation (such as insurance carrier costs, etc.). \$20,000 solar rebates will be available from FPL to customers who participate in the program. In Phase 2, funds would be used to provide up-front incentives (rather than rebates), to eligible residents and business owners throughout South Florida, to increase market penetration. The database will be rolled-out regionally to the SE Florida Climate Compact partners—Miami-Dade, Palm Beach and Monroe Counties and their municipalities—with assistance from the DOE, with the goal to go statewide.

Broward County is requesting a letter from municipalities that would like to participate. The Broward League of Cities is supporting the program (**Exhibit 1**). The extend of our responsibilities and commitments are outlined in the attached letter (Exhibit 2).

RECOMMENDATION: We recommend the Commission authorized the Mayor to send the attached letter of support and participation (Exhibit 2).

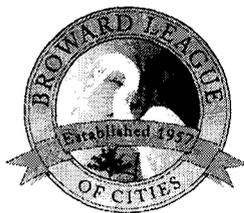
EXHIBIT(S): 1 – Letter of Support and Participation

Reviewed by Town Attorney
 Yes No

Town Manager Initials *CB*

Exhibit 1

August 10, 2011



2010-2011 OFFICERS

President Debby Eisinger
Mayor, Cooper City
1st Vice President Bobby B. DuBose
Vice Mayor, Fort Lauderdale
2nd Vice President Susan Starkey
Councilmember, Davie
Secretary Patricia Asseff
Vice Mayor, Hollywood
Treasurer Gary Resnick
Mayor, Wilton Manors

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George Brummer
Vice Mayor, Pompano Beach
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Mayor, Tamarac
Anne Castro
Commissioner, Dania Beach
Alexandra P. Davis
Commissioner, Miramar
Dan Dodge
Mayor, Hillsboro Beach
Thomas Dorsett
Commissioner, West Park
Jack McCluskey
Commissioner, Pembroke Pines
Doug McKay
Council Member, Southwest Ranches
Roseann Minnet
Mayor, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea
Ashira Mohammed
Mayor, Pembroke Park
Scott Newton
Commissioner, Wilton Manors
Peggy Noland
Mayor, Deerfield Beach
Jim Norton
Commissioner, Weston
Tom Powers
Commissioner, Coral Springs
Stacy Ritter
Broward County Commissioner
Donald K. Rosen
Deputy Mayor, Sunrise
David Rosenof
Vice Mayor, Parkland
Dorothy Ross
Commissioner, Hallandale Beach
Fred Schorr
Mayor, Lighthouse Point
Gregory Sollitto
Councilmember, Sea Ranch Lakes
Joseph Varsallone
Commissioner, Margate
Benjamin Williams, Sr.
Commissioner, Lauderdale Lakes

Rhonda Calhoun
Executive Director

Mayor Suzanne Gunzburger
Broward County
115 South Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

Dear Mayor Gunzburger:

Broward League of Cities, at its Board Meeting of July 7, 2011 voted unanimously to support the grant proposal being submitted to the SunShot Initiative: Rooftop Solar Challenge Program by Broward County. We believe that solar power is a smart choice for commercial and residential property owners, and we encourage the development of new and innovative strategies to reduce market barriers and costs.

Your proposed project team, which includes key personnel from the County and municipal governments, Florida Power and Light (FPL), the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact, and the private sector, represents a strong collaborative partnership that will develop and advocate for the necessary changes. By streamlining and standardizing the permitting and zoning processes, improving interconnection standards, and examining viable financing options, Broward County's initiative should lower costs and increase market penetration in the targeted communities, and create a replicable model that can be adopted on a regional or statewide basis.

In conclusion, all Broward municipalities fully support your efforts as you seek external funding to reduce fragmentation and upgrade the rooftop solar market in Broward County. If funded by the Department of Energy, this innovative program will benefit residents, small commercial establishments, the local economy, and the environment for many years to come. Please feel free to call on us if you need assistance in achieving your proposed goals and objectives.

Sincerely,

RHONDA CALHOUN
Executive Director

Suite 122 Governmental Center, 115 South Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301
Phone: 954.357.7370 Fax: 954.357.5563
Email: bloc@bellsouth.net Internet: www.browardleague.org

Exhibit 2

August __, 2011

Sue Gunzburger
Mayor, Broward County
115 S. Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

Re: SunShot Initiative: Rooftop Solar Challenge Grant

Dear Mayor Gunzburger:

The purpose of this letter is to extend our commitment to participate in Broward County's SunShot Initiative: Rooftop Solar Challenge Grant Program. If funding for this program is approved, the Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, representing a population of 6,000 agrees to make personnel available to support the project's goals and objectives by contributing in-kind staff time or other resources. This includes:

- (1) Appointing a point-person to coordinate staff activities related to the grant, ensure appropriate training is completed with respect to the streamlined permitting database implementation, and attend periodic stakeholders' meetings throughout the life of the grant;
- (2) Authorizing our Building Officials to provide technical and administrative assistance required to support the project's goals and objectives;
- (3) Authorizing Planning & Zoning Officials to participate in the project, as appropriate and required, to ensure successful implementation;
- (4) Encouraging Broward County, who provides our building permitting services, to streamline their permitting database; and
- (5) Add information concerning the program to the Town web site, attend website trainings, and offer educational courses to affected staff.

At its meeting of August 23, 2011, our Town Commission approved our participation in this program and pledged its support of the collaborative effort to reduce market barriers and lower non-hardware costs of Photovoltaic (PV) systems in Broward County and is happy to be listed as one of the primary partners. We understand that our role as a partner is a significant responsibility and we look forward to participating in this project.

Sincerely,

Rosanne Minnet
Mayor