



solar electric power association

PRESS RELEASE

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SEPA Commends Florida Power & Light for Largest US Solar Facility

SunPower and Florida Power & Light Commission Largest US Solar Power Plant

Washington, DC – The Solar Electric Power Association (SEPA) commends Florida Power & Light (FPL) and SunPower for the completion of the DeSoto Next Generation Solar Energy Center in Arcadia, Florida. The facility will overtake Nevada's Nellis Solar Power Plant for the title of largest solar photovoltaic facility in North America. Constructed in less than a year, the DeSoto Next Generation Solar Energy Center uses over 90,000 photovoltaic panels to turn the sun's rays into electricity to power more than 3,000 homes.

The DeSoto Next Generation Solar Energy Center is one of three new commercial-scale, renewable, solar power plants FPL is building in Florida, along with solar energy centers in Martin County and at NASA's Kennedy Space Center. Together, these projects will total 110 megawatts of capacity by the end of 2010 and it is very likely that this will make Florida the second largest solar power-producing state in the country.

"In the past year, we have seen a significant increase in plans for large-scale solar projects including FPL's DeSoto Next Generation Solar Energy Center," said Julia Hamm, executive director of SEPA. "Electric utilities are stepping up to take a leadership position on the expansion of the role of solar in our nation's energy portfolio."

According to SEPA's [Solar Data & Mapping Tool](#), at least five Florida utilities have recently announced plans for major solar programs or projects and many others in the state continue to offer some type of solar program to their customers. "In many other states, utilities face regulations or guidelines that require the integration of solar power. Florida utilities are unique because they are embracing solar without a regulated solar requirement," said Sandra Burton, SEPA's eastern regional director. "Today's commissioning of the DeSoto plant demonstrates how Florida utilities are continuing to work diligently to introduce renewable energy."

About the Solar Electric Power Association: SEPA is comprised of over 700 utilities and solar industry members. From national events to one-on-one counseling, SEPA is the go-to resource for unbiased and actionable solar intelligence. Breaking down information overload into business reality, SEPA takes the time and risk out of implementing solar business plans and helps turn new technologies into new opportunities. www.solarelectricpower.org