



# The Power Source

## Igniting the Future of Florida



**March 2020**  
**Power Profile: Trudy Novak,**  
*VP of Member Services and  
External Affairs*  
*Seminole Electric Cooperative*

**Your organization is a not-for-profit electric cooperative. For those unfamiliar with the role your organization plays in the Florida energy industry, can you please explain?**

Rural electric cooperatives became permanent fixtures on May 21, 1936, when the Rural Electrification Act was signed into law. The first Florida electric cooperatives were incorporated ..... [Read More Here](#)

**Over the years, you personally have played a major role in generation needs assessment for the cooperative members. What significant changes have you witnessed during your career that have influenced the generation choices we have today?**

The most significant changes I have witnessed over my career include consumer sentiment regarding renewable energy, the declining price of solar, the declining price ..... [Read More Here](#)

**Based upon your own personal experiences in your profession, what has been the biggest challenge you have faced or lesson you have learned?**

Early in my career, I doubted myself. I did not think that I could take on the next level of responsibility, or that I could take on additional duties outside of what I was used to. I remember thinking .....[Read More Here](#)

[Read Trudy's Full  
Power Profile Here](#)

### Volume 1 Issue 3



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### ***Congratulations Corner:*** ***James Danly Appointed to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission***

The U.S. Senate confirmed James Danly (R) of Tennessee to join the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Danly currently serves as FERC's general counsel and was approved by a 52-40 margin in the Senate. Chairman Neil Chatterjee said Danly had proven to be an "invaluable asset to the commission." The FERC regulates the transmission and wholesale sale of electricity and natural gas in interstate commerce, also regulating the transportation of oil by pipeline.



## ***Duke Energy: One Million Solar Panels and Counting***

Duke Energy Florida announced the installation of its one-millionth solar panel in the state at the company's Columbia Solar Power Plant in Fort White, Florida. Duke Energy Florida will have a total of almost 515 megawatts of solar under construction or operating by mid-2020. The company is investing an estimated \$1 billion to construct or acquire a total of 700 MW of solar power facilities from 2018-2022 in Florida. Duke Energy will continue to make innovative and targeted investments in additional power plants, battery storage technology



*Catherine Stempien*  
President  
Duke Energy FL

shared solar, transportation electrification and a modernized power grid to help meet customers' needs for diverse, reliable energy solutions. Duke Energy Florida's President Catherine Stempien commented, "This is an exciting announcement as we increasingly deliver cleaner, more reliable energy to our customers." Stempien said "By mid-year, our solar plants are expected to eliminate nearly 1.5 billion pounds of carbon dioxide emissions each year. That's the equivalent of taking 130,000 passenger cars off Florida roads."

[Read Duke's Full Press Release Here](#)

### ***Florida Advisory Council on Climate & Energy***

Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried announced the launch of the new Florida Advisory Council on Climate & Energy. This committee will be comprised of energy and climate professionals to advise the Commissioner and the Office of Energy on modernizing energy and climate policies, diversifying energy sources, increasing energy efficiency, and creating solutions for Florida's energy and climate future. The 26 member committee will advise on a broad range of energy industry issues. Commissioner Fried said, "I am proud to convene this diverse group of experts that will explore innovated solutions to one of the greatest challenges of our generation."

[Read More Here](#)

### ***FWELF 2020 Registration Now Open***

Registration is now open for Florida's Women in Energy Leadership Forum 2020 in Orlando, Florida. FWELF 2020 will take place at the JW Marriott Grande Lakes Nov. 11-13. Read comments below from last year's forum .

"Participating in FWELF has shown me that I am responsible for helping shape my own professional destination. The forum has confirmed that I have always had the power within to look for opportunities to make a positive difference in my professional and personal life." - Linda Lake, Seminole Electric

[Register Today](#)

## ***Gulf Power : Excellence in Service Reliability***

According to information filed with the Florida Public Service Commission, Gulf Power's nearly 470,000 customers experienced the best-ever service reliability in 2019, due to the company's efforts to make the energy grid stronger and storm resilient. The average amount of time that a Gulf Power customer experienced an outage was approximately 25% less than in 2018, exemplifying the companies investment to strengthen the energy grid. Gulf Power's Marlene Santos said, "Our ongoing investments in strengthening the grid are delivering real results and improving service for our customers." "We are continuing to step up our investments over the next several years in storm hardening projects and smart grid technology that will help us deliver even more reliable service to our customers, in good weather and bad."



*Marlene Santos*  
President  
Gulf Power Company

[Read Gulf Power's Full Press Release Here](#)



## Annual Florida Lineman Competition

The 20th Annual Florida Lineman Competition took place this week, acknowledging a time to honor and celebrate Florida public power communities. The Florida Municipal Electric Association named the lineworkers who won the competition and recognized member utilities for their support of fellow public power communities. During the annual Lineman Competition, lineworkers put their skills to the test performing tasks they encounter in real-world scenarios. Teams consisted of at least one lineworker who has been in the industry for five or more years, and three additional lineworkers, apprentices compete separately.

This year, 20 journeyman teams (63 lineman) and 65 apprentices from 11 different utilities participated.

[Read More Here](#)



*The Overall Apprentice Award was won by Gaige Griffis from Clay Electric Cooperative and the Journeyman Team Winner Cup Went to Josh Helton, Justin Johnson and Coy Judd of the City of Tallahassee*

### Florida Adds 2,000 Solar Jobs

Florida's Solar industry is growing, by almost 2,000. The Solar Foundation, a nonprofit focused on advancing solar energy, found Florida added 1,843 solar jobs in 2019, the largest increase in the United States. Utilities around the state are taking advantage of the sunshine state by investing millions into solar projects, creating thousands of jobs, this number is expected to grow.

### FPL Launches the Largest Community Solar Program in the U.S.

Florida Power & Light Company received approval from the Florida Public Service Commission to launch what will be the largest community solar program in the U.S. The program called SolarTogether will double the amount of community solar available in the U.S. The program will give customers the opportunity to subscribe to have a portion or all of their electricity come from solar generation. Customers will now be able to subscribe to the program. Participants will see line item costs and credits associated with SolarTogether on their bills, however the credits will increase and outweigh the subscription charge in three to five years acting as a payback to the customer's bill.

[Read More on SolarTogether here](#)

### Utilities Respond to COVID-19

In the face of a national pandemic, utilities around the state are aiding customers by suspending service cut-offs over overdue bills temporarily. It is a difficult and unsettling time around the state and we urge you to contact your utility provider to find out more information and continue to stay updated to state and federal advisories.

[Florida Department of Health](#)

### U.S. Battery Storage Projects Underway in 2020

Pacific Gas and Electric Co. and technology supplier Tesla Inc. hope to begin building one of the world's most powerful battery systems at the California utility's Moss Landing substation in late March. This project, almost five times larger than the largest existing U.S. battery array, would be operational by the end of 2020. The facilities, both with four hours of energy storage capacity, are among several large-scale projects under construction or in advanced development that market observers believe will push annual U.S. battery additions in 2020 beyond 1,000 MW for the first time ever, and above 3,000 MW in 2021.

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