

THE POWER SOURCE

IGNITING THE FUTURE OF FLORIDA

A Message From FWELF Founder, Lila Jaber

Florida's Women in Energy Leadership Forum is a daily recognition that #womeninenergy are natural leaders with expertise and professional capabilities used to POWER an industry that is so vital to our economy. But March is a national time when we ALL join in recognizing the countless women who work tirelessly to promote opportunity through their work, life, and families. In this issue of Power Source, we celebrate all of you and applaud in your collective journey to inform, inspire, and motivate. Thank you for ALL that you do!

Don't forget to register for FWELF 2023 themed #Build! held on August 14-16, 2023 at the Marriott Harbor Beach in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Join us for a three-day event that will include c-suite level keynote speakers and panelists discussing the industry's commitment to infrastructure investment, employees, and customers. Working with you, we are committed to using Florida's Women in Energy Leadership Forum to inform, inspire, and motivate. To register for this year's forum, [please visit our website](#).

Thank you to all of our sponsors who ensure every year we are able to inform, inspire, and motivate through their collaboration and support. For sponsorship opportunities, please visit: <https://flwomeninenergy.com/fwelf-2023-sponsors/>.

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ANNOUNCING FWELF 2023 #BUILD

AUGUST 14-16, 2023 | MARRIOTT HARBOR BEACH
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

FLORIDA'S WOMEN IN ENERGY
LEADERSHIP FORUM®

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Duke Energy Begins Construction on Floating Solar Pilot



Duke Energy Florida recently announced that its first floating solar array pilot will begin construction later this month in Polk County.

The almost 1-megawatt floating solar array will feature more than 1,800 floating solar modules and occupy approximately 2 acres of water surface on an existing cooling pond at the Duke Energy Hines Energy Complex in Bartow.

“We’re excited to get hands-on experience with Duke Energy Florida’s first floating solar project at one of our own power plant sites,” said Melissa Seixas, Duke Energy Florida state president. “Unique pilots like floating solar are helping us better understand the capabilities of innovative clean energy technologies that can benefit our Florida customers and communities now and in the future.”

Crews will construct and assemble the module floating system on land in segments before securing it with anchors in the water. The project will take approximately five to six months. The pilot is part of Duke Energy's Vision Florida program, which is designed to test innovative projects such as microgrids and battery energy storage, among others, to prepare the power grid for a clean energy future. [Read more](#)

Join us for an interview with Commissioner Gabriella Passidomo: Monday, March 27th at 3:30pm.

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FWELF
Interview:
Monday,
March 27th
3:30pm
YouTube &
Facebook Live

FLORIDA'S WOMEN IN ENERGY
LEADERSHIP FORUM

Lila Jaber
President
Lilajaber Consulting

Commissioner
Gabriella Passidomo
Florida Public Service Commission



Tampa Electric to Remove Two Chimneys at Big Bend Power Station



The skyline of Apollo Beach will change in the coming months, as Tampa Electric will remove two of the three chimneys at Big Bend Power Station. “Big Bend’s chimneys have been landmarks in Apollo Beach for decades,” said Allan Williams, director of Big Bend Station. “This will dramatically change the landscape.”

The Big Bend Modernization project repowered Big Bend Unit 1 with state-of-the-art combined-cycle technology and eliminated coal as that unit’s fuel.

The project is part of the company’s strategy to reduce carbon, and it will improve the land, water and air emissions at Big Bend as part of TECO’s legacy of environmental stewardship. With the modernization project complete, removing the chimneys is part of a five-year plant dismantlement project. Preliminary work has begun, and the most visible progress will begin in May. The removal of the chimneys will be complete in the autumn. Tampa Electric expects to recover 10 percent of construction costs through recycling and reselling some obsolete portions of the plant. Some metal will be recycled or sold as scrap; some equipment, such as pumps and motors, will be sold on the second-hand market. This is the first time Tampa Electric has recycled metals or components on such a large scale.

[Read more](#)

EDP Renewables begins 500-acre Misenheimer Solar Park



Misenheimer Solar Park is located in the Village of Misenheimer in Stanly County, North Carolina. The solar park will complement the area’s agricultural resources with a stable cash crop in the form of landowner lease payments. EDP Renewables began construction at the beginning of the month on the 500-acre solar park, which at its completion will have approximately 200,000 photovoltaic panels.

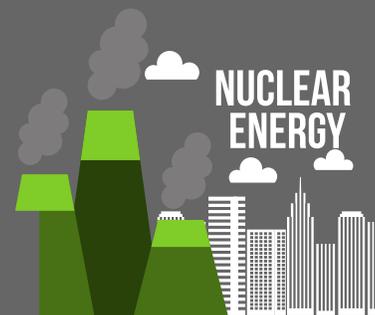
- The solar park represents a capital investment of at least \$70 million, according to the company, and will disperse millions of dollars to local governments throughout the life of the project, including an estimated \$3.5 million in taxes to support local schools and community services.
- Misenheimer will have an installed capacity of **74 megawatts (MW)**. The generation will be equivalent to the consumption of more than **12,000** North Carolina homes.
- Misenheimer will help provide national energy security and diversify domestic supply



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DOE Releases New Reports on Pathways to Commercial Liftoff to Accelerate Clean Energy Technologies



The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced this week the launch of its Pathways to Commercial Liftoff, a set of reports that represent a new department-wide initiative to strengthen engagement between the public and private sectors to accelerate the commercialization and deployment of key clean energy technologies. The reports provide the private sector and other industry partners a valuable, engagement-driven resource on how and when certain technologies—beginning with clean hydrogen, advanced nuclear, and long duration energy storage—can reach full scale deployment. The new initiative underscores the critical role that DOE plays in enabling widespread commercial adoption clean energy technologies.

“As we combat the climate crisis and race towards an equitable clean energy future, public and private partnerships will be more important and critical than ever before,” said U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm. “The Liftoff reports will help drive engagement between government and industry to unlock exciting new opportunities and ensure America is the global leader in the next generation of clean energy technologies.”

Given the constantly and rapidly evolving market, technology, and policy environment as well as community needs and concerns, the Liftoff reports are designed to be “living documents,” and will be updated as the commercialization outlook on each technology evolves. DOE will continue to solicit input through industry forums, requests for information, and regular interactions across industry, investors, and other stakeholders to help inform decisions. DOE also encourages direct public input, which can be submitted via email to liftoff@hq.doe.gov.

The Pathways to Commercial Liftoff reports were developed through extensive stakeholder engagement and a combination of system-level modeling and project-level financial modeling. Additional reports will be added in the coming months. [Find out more information about the reports here, and read the full reports here.](#)





Legislative snapshot: A look at the top industry bills for Florida's 2023 legislative session

Florida's sixty-day legislative session began on Tuesday, March 7th. While there are a variety of issues on the table, emphasis will be placed on the Governor's Framework for Freedom Budget totaling \$114.8 billion. There is also a variety of energy industry bills and important legislation moving through the process. Below is a snapshot of some of the top industry-related bills. For more information, please contact Sarah Sims at sarahsims@lilajaber.com.

- **HB 1331/SB 1380** : Municipal Utilities: Authorizes municipality to fund or finance general government functions with portion of revenues from utility operations; establishes limits on utility revenue transfers for municipal utilities; modifies provisions relating to permissible rates, fees, & charges imposed by municipal water & sewer utilities on customers located outside municipal boundaries.
 - This bill limits the amount that municipal electric utilities can transfer to the city's general revenue fund, establishing a formula to cap the amount that can be transferred as defined by the rates of return on equity by the Florida Public Service Commission.
 - The amount would be reduced by basis points depending on the percentage of municipal utility customers living outside city boundaries.
 - Proponents of the bill cite "taxation without representation" however the Florida Municipal Electric Association states limiting general fund transfers infringes upon cities' rights to earn a reasonable return on their utility investments, potentially raising costs for customers.
- **HB 821/SB 1162**: Renewable Energy Cost Recovery: Revises types of contracts which are eligible for cost recovery by public utility; authorizes public utility to recover prudently incurred renewable natural gas & hydrogen fuel infrastructure project costs approved by PSC; establishes terms for cost recovery; specifies eligible renewable natural gas & hydrogen fuel infrastructure projects; requires annual report.
 - The bill allows electric and natural gas public utilities, subject to PSC approval, to recover through rates the costs of RNG and hydrogen purchases and the costs of specified capital investments in RNG and hydrogen fuel infrastructure projects.
 - The bill provides factors for the PSC consider when reviewing such purchases and infrastructure projects for approval and provides standards for approval. Under the bill, the PSC must determine the appropriate mechanism for recovery of approved infrastructure project costs, which may include an existing or new mechanism.
- **HB 125/SB 0194**: Utility System Rate Base Values: Establishes alternative procedure for PSC to establish rate base value for acquired utility systems; requires approved rate base value to be reflected in acquiring utility's next general rate case for ratemaking purposes; establishes procedure for appraisal of acquired utility system; provides contents required for petition to PSC for approval of rate base value of acquired utility system; authorizes PSC to set rates for & classify certain acquired utility systems.
 - The bill allows certain PSC-regulated water and wastewater utilities (those with over 10,000 customers or those that are permitted to produce 3 million gallons of drinking water per day) who acquire an existing system to petition the PSC to establish rate base for the acquired system based on the lesser of: (1) the purchase price negotiated by the two utilities; or (2) the average of three appraisals of the system conducted by licensed appraisers chosen from a list established by the PSC.

