

# Florida

## Solar Technologies

### Types of Solar Energy

The sun provides clean, renewable energy by creating heat or electricity. Solar thermal systems generate energy by heating water for your family or business needs, and it can be used to heat swimming pools. Solar electric (PV or photovoltaic) systems convert sunlight directly into electricity and



can be independent of or interconnected with your utility provider.

### Benefits of Using Solar

Most people know the environmental advantages of replacing fossil-fueled systems with solar. No other power-generating technologies have as little impact on the environment. Today, Floridians have a variety of reasons for choosing solar:

- ✧ reliable and adaptable technologies
- ✧ lower, more predictable utility bill
- ✧ 6% to 25% tax-free return on investment<sup>1</sup>
- ✧ financial incentives—federal, state and local
- ✧ pollution free, environmentally responsible choice

### Solar Hot Water Heaters

Whether an owner of a new or existing home, you reduce water heating costs 50% to 90% when you install a solar hot water heater. Though all homeowners benefit, new homeowners profit immediately by including the solar system in the mortgage.

The kind of system you choose, including the type of collector and whether it is active or passive, depends on your site, climate, cost, installation considerations and how you'd like your solar heating system to be used. In all cases, systems are installed with a backup heat source to assure a seamless supply of household hot water in case of prolonged cloudy weather or excessive demand.

### Solar Swimming Pool Heaters

Solar is the best energy, economic and environmental choice to heat your Florida swimming pool. Heating with gas or electricity is a luxury few can afford. Because the sun's energy is free, the solar swimming pool heating system doesn't create a monthly utility bill. Although regular maintenance of a pool and its filtration system are important, a solar swimming pool heating system requires no special maintenance. With no mechanical components to breakdown and competitive installations costs—no other energy choice makes as much sense.



### Solar Electric Systems

Solar electric (PV or photovoltaic) systems produce free electrical power whenever the sun is shining. Systems can be designed to provide backup power when the utility system is down—such as after a hurricane. These systems can be either grid-connected or stand-alone. Grid-connected systems supply surplus power back through the grid to the utility. When the solar system power supply is



low, the home or business receives supplemental power from the utility. Stand-alone systems produce power independently of the utility, relying on battery-stored energy created during the day to supply power for evening activities.

### Solar Rebates and Tax Credits

Rebates, a state sales tax exemption and federal tax credits are available when you purchase and install a solar system. For the most up-to-date information, ask for our solar incentive brochure.

Find a Solar Contractor or Distributor  
Near You

Web: [www.flaseia.org](http://www.flaseia.org)

Phone: 407-339-2010 or 800-426-5899

# Flaseia

Florida Solar Energy Industries Association

Florida's Solar Connection

<sup>1</sup>Heat Your Water with the Sun:  
A Consumer's Guide, US Department of Energy, 2003.

The Florida Solar Energy Industries Association (Flaseia), founded in 1977, is a nonprofit association of companies with an interest in the promotion and advancement of solar energy resources in Florida.