

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

--MEMORANDUM--



The City Beautiful

To: Honorable Members of the Commission

Date: July 8, 2015

From: Commissioner Vince Lago

Subject: Solar Installations

The City of Coral Gables' Sustainability Master Plan aims to create a roadmap for environmental and sustainable best practices citywide. To this end, opportunities that help facilitate this initiative should be explored.

Many municipalities are beginning to encourage Photovoltaic (PV) installations as they are sustainable, efficient, and a cost-effective energy alternative. Moreover, PV installations qualify for a Solar Investment Tax Credit (ITC), a 30 percent tax credit for solar systems on residential and commercial properties which remains in effect through December 31, 2016. Exploring green initiatives such as PV installations would not only complement our Sustainability Master Plan but considering these options before the tax credit expires would be beneficial. Recently, the City of South Miami issued an RFP to solicit licensed solar installers who desire to install rooftop PV systems for residential and commercial property owners. The winning bid was submitted by Goldin Solar, a local installer known for complex commercial installations (<http://goldinsolar.com/>).

The City of Coral Gables should be at the forefront of energy efficiency and sustainable practices. As a means to adopt best practices and collaborate with neighboring municipalities on green initiatives, it would be instrumental to host a workshop this summer and invite officials from the City of Pinecrest, City of South Miami, City of Cutler Bay and City of Palmetto to share their sustainability planning initiatives.

Lastly, I would like to share few articles I found particularly interesting. The first article discusses Florida's need to diversify its energy portfolio and a recent attempt to halt a voter initiative that would allow state residents to purchase power from neighbors instead of big utility companies.

(<http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/news/cerabino-solar-energy-stance-shows-floridas-lack-of/nmqq3/>). The second article addresses a new law passed in France which mandates that all new buildings built in commercial zones must be partially covered in either plants or solar panels. (<http://csglobe.com/france-declares-all-new-rooftops-must-be-topped-with-plants-or-solar-panels/>).

Sincerely,

Vince Lago

CC: Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark, City Manager
Craig E. Leen, City Attorney
Public Works Department Directors