



St john s utility-scale solar

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As we move toward a more sustainable future, SRP is developing renewable ...

Utility-scale solar is produced in a commercial facility such as a solar farm. ...

Connecting to SRP's grid. The interconnection handbook specifies ...

SRP's history museum features informational panels, artifacts, photos, ...

Intelligent insights & conversations with global power industry professionals

Florida Power & Light's plans for the expansion of its solar program are clearly ambitious.

The utility company will add 30 million solar panels to its power grid over the next 10 years -- approximately 300,000 of them at a plant it will begin building in St. Johns County sometime over the next year or so, according to FPL spokesman Stephen Heiman.

The facility, to be called the Trailside Solar Energy Center, will be located at the intersection of State Road 207 and County Road 305. The plan has been approved by the county, but ground has not yet been broken.

The Record recently took a tour of the FPL solar farm in Putnam County, which will look and operate almost identically to the one in St. Johns County. The site is one of about 10 expected to go live by early 2020. FPL already operates 18 major solar energy plants and more than 200 smaller installations across Florida.

Here, in a corner of Interlachen, rows of aluminum piles stand at attention like soldiers in formation. The piles are driven 8 or 10 feet into the ground without the need for concrete. On top of that foundation sit brackets that form a racking system on which the actual solar panels will be hung.

The Putnam County project is a fixed-tilt system, meaning it automatically adjusts its position to follow the sun's movement over the course of the day.

All the sites FPL chooses are virtually undeveloped and large acres of contiguous land. If they outlive their use, the parcels can easily be turned back into agricultural plots, and even when operational, they are still friendly to coexisting with wildlife and farm animals, even whole flocks of sheep.

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