



Georgia Power honored for advancing solar market

Tuesday, April 12, 2016 - The Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA) named Georgia Power to its annual Top 10 list of utilities that integrated the most solar generation into the electrical grid in 2015.

The 2015 Top 10 distinction was announced today at SEPA's Utility Solar Conference in Denver. The company made the list through its groundbreaking voluntary efforts and without state-mandated renewable portfolio standards.

SEPA, an educational non-profit organization dedicated to helping utilities deploy and integrate solar, storage, demand response and other distributed energy resources into the grid, previously named Georgia Power as the 2014 Investor-Owned Utility of the Year and earlier that year to its Top 10 list. SEPA was formerly known as the Solar Electric Power Association. [Read more.](#)

“Our strategically planned and innovative programs are bringing solar generation to Georgia and, as part of an overall diverse generation mix, ensuring that electric customers continue to have the clean, reliable and affordable energy they need every day,” said Paul Bowers, chairman, president and CEO of Georgia Power. “We are honored to receive this recognition from SEPA.”

“We are proud to be recognized for advancing renewable generation in Georgia,” said Norrie McKenzie, vice president of renewable development. “It is especially meaningful that we achieved this without state-mandated targets or quotas and at costs designed to prevent upward pressure on customer rates.”

In coordination with the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC), Georgia Power continues to implement innovative solar programs. Renewable energy options serving Georgia electric customers today include solar, wind and biomass. As part of Georgia Power's 2016 Integrated Resource Plan, now pending before the Georgia PSC, the company's proposed Renewable Energy Development Initiative (REDI) calls for an additional 525 megawatts (MW) of renewable generation. REDI would include 425 MW of utility-scale generators using various renewable sources, with 100 MW of distributed facilities generating less than 3MW each.

Earlier programs, such as the Advanced Solar Initiative (ASI) and solar projects at five Georgia military bases, are already adding thousands of solar panels to the state's energy landscape.

Timeline of Solar Growth

Georgia Power has long studied the evolution of solar generation to the benefit of its customers. Since 2011, the company's major solar expansions include:

- 2011: company launches 50-MW Large Scale Solar (LSS) program.
- 2012: ground-breaking ASI grows 210 MW of small, medium and large-scale solar resources.
- 2013: ASI-Prime seeks additional 525 MW of new small, medium and large-scale solar resources.
- 2014-2015: while continuing ASI implementation, Georgia Power forges collaborative agreements with Army and Navy to build, own and operate 166 MW of solar projects on Georgia military bases.
- 2016: Georgia Power proposes REDI to acquire additional 525 MW of competitive renewable resources by the end of 2019.

For more information on Georgia Power solar programs, including resources available for residential and business customers considering solar energy, visit www.georgiapower.com/solar. To learn more about SEPA and its Top 10 Utilities list, visit www.solarelectricpower.org.