

# 2018 SOLAR MAKERS & BRAKERS

People across the South are turning to affordable rooftop solar power. Although some utilities are implementing thoughtful programs and policies that encourage rooftop solar investments, others are finding ways to undermine, and in some cases, completely put the brakes on solar's emergence as a feasible, cost-effective choice for customers. Here are the 2018 inaugural Solar Makers and Brakers.



## 2018 SOLAR MAKERS

Solar makers are utilities with programs and policies that enable and encourage rooftop solar investments.

### BARC Electric Cooperative

#### Early Adopter

As an early adopter, BARC Electric Cooperative was the first utility in Virginia to offer a community solar program, which gives customers access to solar energy without having to install a rooftop solar system. This utility serves more than 12,500 customers and offers net metering at full retail rates for solar sent to the grid.

**1st**  
Virginia utility  
to offer community solar

### DUKE Energy

#### Impactor

Duke Energy is one of the largest electric power companies in the country. In the Carolinas, Duke offers retail rate net metering and does not charge residential rooftop solar customers additional monthly fees. Duke is one to watch though, as it may seek changes to its net metering policy in 2019.

**10,000+**  
rooftop solar  
customers

### BRUNSWICK EMC

#### Innovator

This innovative utility offers a variety of clean energy opportunities to customers and gives full retail rate credit for any solar sent to the grid. Although the utility charges a low monthly administrative fee, there are no fees based on a customer's system size.

**12**  
planned solar plus  
storage installations



## 2018 SOLAR BRAKERS

Solar brakers are utilities with rooftop solar policies that undermine, or worse, completely put the brakes on solar's emergence as a feasible, cost-effective choice for customers.

### ALABAMA Power

#### Punisher

Five years ago, Alabama Power began imposing a monthly charge on customers who install solar to power some of their energy needs. That unjust charge has smothered the growth of rooftop solar in the state of Alabama. Making matters worse, Alabama Power recently proposed to increase its monthly solar charge.

**\$9,000**  
average solar fees paid to  
utility over the lifetime of a  
residential solar system

### TENNESSEE Valley Authority

#### Self-Regulator

Wielding its authority as both a regulator and monopoly power provider for more than 154 local power companies, the TVA mandates that customers in the Valley who want to install rooftop solar systems at their homes and contribute to the grid must go through one of two programs, giving customers a choice between two bad options. With one, customers must sell 100% of their solar energy to the utility. With the other, customers can use some of their solar, but they are compensated at an extremely low and constantly changing rate.

**2**  
programs: Green Power Providers &  
Dispersed Power Production

### BLUE RIDGE Energy

#### Deterrer

Several years ago, this utility implemented net metering policies that undermine customers' ability to go solar. Blue Ridge Energy hits solar customers with a charge of \$53 every month.

**\$53 vs \$24**  
solar customer  
monthly fees vs. regular  
customer monthly fees

## 2018 STATE OF SOLAR IN THE SOUTH Number of Homes & Businesses with Solar

= 200 rooftop solar systems

#### Alabama



#### Tennessee



#### Georgia



#### Virginia



#### North Carolina



#### South Carolina



### Solar Jobs

= 200 workers

#### Alabama



#### Tennessee



#### Georgia



#### Virginia



#### North Carolina



#### South Carolina



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