

# 2020 SOLAR MAKERS & BRAKERS

The Southern Environmental Law Center's "Makers" and "Brakers" this year highlight some of the most impactful policies affecting rooftop solar growth across the sunny South. The 2020 Solar Makers include states, regulators and utilities taking action to encourage rooftop solar. This year's Solar Brakers shed light on utility policies that undermine, and in some cases, completely put the brakes on rooftop solar as a cost-effective, clean energy choice for Southerners.



## 2020 SOLAR MAKERS

### Significant State-Level Progress Virginia Legislature

Virginia makes the list again with groundbreaking clean energy legislation. The Virginia Clean Economy Act dramatically expands net metering and increases the ability of Virginia residents who earn a lower income to avoid up-front costs by financing their solar installations. Together these changes make rooftop solar much more economical and accessible for all Virginians.

### Planning for the Future Duke Energy

Net metering has helped solar power in South Carolina grow from less than 500 rooftops in 2014 to 20,000+ today. Building on this success, Duke Energy recently announced an agreement with conservation groups, solar advocates and solar industry members to evolve the state's net metering policies while also continuing to encourage investments in rooftop solar over the next ten years.

### Shift to Fair Monthly Netting Georgia Public Service Commission

The Georgia Public Service Commission changed how Georgia Power credits rooftop solar customers for valuable clean energy their solar systems provide to the utility's grid. Under this new monthly netting policy, solar customers can use 100% of their homegrown solar energy to off-set their energy usage – making solar much more affordable for Georgia Power customers.



## 2020 SOLAR BRAKERS

### Plummeting Pay Backs + Punitive Fees Tennessee Valley Authority

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is a Solar Braker for the third consecutive year. Across TVA's territory, residents that invest in rooftop solar receive rock-bottom rates for excess energy. Making matters worse, this year TVA approved a policy that allows local utilities in their territory to treat rooftop solar customers differently, which could mean extra fees.

### Even Steeper Monthly Fees Alabama Power

Alabama Power makes our list of Solar Brakers for a third time. This year, Alabama Power increased its already-steep fees for solar customers, making it even more difficult for Alabamians to go solar. It's no surprise that Alabama has far fewer rooftop solar customers than other Southern states.

### Stopping Customers from Using Homegrown Solar North Carolina Municipal Utilities

In North Carolina, more than 15 city-owned electric utilities still have policies in place that require rooftop solar owners to sell 100% of their homegrown electricity at low wholesale rates and buy back electricity at much higher retail rates. It's simply not fair to stop residents from using the clean energy that their solar panels produce.

## 2020 STATE OF SOLAR IN THE SOUTH

### Estimated Number of Homes & Businesses with Rooftop Solar

= 200 rooftop solar systems



### Estimated Solar Jobs

= 200 solar jobs



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