



Making Solar Affordable

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## Solar Job Creation

Solar electric systems are having a significant impact in Gainesville in numerous ways. As the largest solar electric company in north central Florida, Solar Impact is pleased to have played a major role. When Barry and Elaine Jacobson founded Solar Impact in 2007, they were primarily focused on the benefits of improving the environment, reducing the need for foreign fuels, and providing a good return on investment for their customers.

However, the most rewarding benefit has turned out to be job creation and local economic growth through renewable energy. Solar Impact has created 6 full-time skilled positions and several part-time positions. More importantly, they have generated well over \$1 million in work for local roofing and electrical contractors over the past four years and expect to double that number by the end of this year.

At Solar Impact, there is a strong belief that renewable energy will continue to play an important role in creating and maintaining jobs for the local construction industry. Solar photovoltaic installations have more than doubled each year and are projected to do the same this year. Solar Impact supports numerous job creation efforts including the new Gainesville Job Corp solar program, the Santa Fe College apprentice program, and the University of Florida American Solar Energy Society.

Local solar companies continue to compete strongly in the solar electric market in both quality and price. Local solar companies using local labor have installed almost all of the solar photovoltaic systems in Gainesville. These local customers have seen a strong return on their investment in solar electric, which enhances their overall business. Solar Impact's customers include Ken and Linda McGurn of McGurn Management, Mike Warren of AMJ, Irvin Gleim of Gleim Publications, Phil Emmer and Lori McGriff of Emmer Development, University of Florida, Alachua County School Board, Alachua County Libraries, Gainesville-Alachua County Regional Airport Authority, plus many other local businesses and homes.

In conclusion, renewable energy and specifically solar photovoltaic, has been a bright spot in a gloomy economic time. Solar Impact looks forward to continued growth and creating and retaining more quality jobs.

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