

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Solar Impact and Alachua County Public Schools to install 725 kW of solar photovoltaic panels on eight public schools.**

Gainesville, Fl 6/29/11 — Solar Impact is proud to announce a public-private partnership that will bring solar electricity to eight Alachua County public schools. There is zero cost to the school district and it will receive annual payments of \$72,500 for twenty years. This money will be used to implement a K-12 renewable energy curriculum and fund energy improvements at the schools. This project will also offer private investors a secure, fixed-income investment.

GRU's nationally recognized "feed-in tariff" program makes this school solar project possible because it allows private investors to own the solar system at the public schools and still receive the substantial tax benefits. The investor will sell the electricity to GRU at \$0.29/kWh under the 20-year feed-in-tariff contract. The school district will receive lease payments from the investor as part of a 20-year roof rental agreement.

The payment to the school district is more than double what was being offered to Gainesville businesses for solar roof rental. Barry Jacobson, president of Solar Impact, explains that the public school solar project was structured to maximize the funds for the public schools. "Our children received an excellent education while attending Alachua County public schools and my wife and I have been very active in supporting the schools. We saw this project as a chance to bring solar to the public schools while creating a much needed revenue stream at no cost to the schools. In creating this project, I increased the roof rental amount until the project returned 10-12% to the investors because this seemed to be the threshold that would still make the project attractive to investors. The roof lease payment came out to \$0.10/W annually or \$72,500 for the 725,000 watt solar project."

From the investor's point of view, this project is a win-win-win situation. They are helping the public schools, improving the environment, creating local jobs and receiving a monthly payment that equates to a 10-12% annual return for 20 years. Alachua County School Board Facilities Executive Director, Ed Gable, selected each roof based on its age and condition. All of the solar equipment is guaranteed for a minimum of 20 years, so the only risk is that the sun doesn't rise!

The leadership from the school district, GRU, and the City of Gainesville made this innovative public-private partnership possible through their diligence and creativity. In this era of shrinking budgets and across the board cut backs, the Alachua County School District will receive \$72,500 annually for utilizing roof space

that would otherwise sit idle and our children will learn about the benefits of renewable energy. Local investors will secure a guaranteed fixed income stream for the next 20 years. Over \$500,000 in work will be created for local solar, roofing and electrical contractors. And the citizens of Gainesville will benefit from over a million kilowatt-hours per year of clean energy being produced by this project.

Solar Impact, based in Gainesville, Florida, is one of the largest solar electric companies in Florida. Solar Impact's primary mission is to "make solar affordable" so that homeowners and business owners can harness the power of renewable energy in a way that makes good financial sense. We buy solar panels direct from the manufacturer, keep our overhead low, and partner with licensed roofers and master electricians to ensure the highest quality solar installation. A licensed professional engineer designs every one of our solar photovoltaic systems. We provide a comprehensive solar financial analysis and help our clients obtain every solar incentive available.

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Solar photovoltaic system design and installation for residential, commercial, government and non-profit entities