

SEIZING THE POWER OF SOLAR

Notable Commercial Projects in Tampa Bay

IKEA In 2012, IKEA officially plugged in 4,956 solar panels on the roof of its Tampa store, for nearly 1.2 megawatts of power. It was the company's 22nd installation in the United States. Ninety percent of IKEA's U.S. buildings are now outfitted with 700,000 panels.

"Ikea installs solar panels at Tampa store." WUSF. July 12, 2012.
FY15 IKEA USA Sustainability Summary.

SunTrust A \$320,000 investment in 2012 in St. Petersburg's SunTrust building provided a feasible yet comprehensive strategy to lower the building's utility costs. The project included upgrades to lighting, improvements to ventilation, use of window film and installation of a 50-kilowatt solar electric system with rooftop solar panels.

"St. Petersburg's SunTrust building going green, saving thousands." *Tampa Bay Times*. Nov. 15, 2012.

Landmarc Contracting Rooftop solar panels combined with a tankless water-heating system, tinted windows and LED lighting reduces the building's electric demand. In addition to registering net-zero usage for the 2,600-square-foot building, leftover power is sold back to Tampa Electric for a rebate. Spencer Kass, vice president of Landmarc Contracting, said: "I'm not some big environmentalist person. For me, it's just straight dollars and cents." Landmarc, located just outside downtown Tampa, tries to show its customers the benefits of adding various energy-saving technologies to their homes and businesses by adding those components to their office building.

"With grant, Tampa company installs solar panels and power bill disappears." *Tampa Bay Times*. Oct. 12, 2012.

Polypack The company located in Pinellas Park currently manufactures all of its end-of-line packaging equipment with energy harnessed from the sun. In 2013, Polypack completed its installation of an integrated solar rooftop featuring 1,900 panels for a combined output of 270 kilowatts. The energy generated by this system provides enough power to operate the manufacturing facility, office space and attached automobile museum, and uses a unique mounting system capable of withstanding a Category 5 hurricane.

<http://www.polypack.com/company/>

Great Bay Distributors

Florida's largest distributor of Anheuser-Busch products is using the hot sun to keep its beer cool. With a \$2.2 million investment, a solar array of 4,590 panels across the company's 186,000-square-foot rooftop in St. Petersburg was completed in June 2015. Matthew Sokolowski, successor manager at Great Bay, said: "It just seemed like the right thing to do." It also makes business sense; electricity costs have been reduced by approximately 80 percent.



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Lockheed Martin In October 2015, the defense contractor unveiled a \$5 million, 2.25-megawatt solar array at its electronics manufacturing facility in Oldsmar. With enough electricity to power nearly 300 homes a year, Lockheed Martin is slashing its electric bill up to \$400,000 annually. The company is eligible for a 30 percent federal solar tax credit.

"Lockheed Martin unveils Florida's largest private solar project in Oldsmar." *Tampa Bay Times*. Oct. 20, 2015.

Mesh This year, the architecture and fabrication firm joined the growing number of businesses powered by the sun. The \$300,000 rooftop solar installment is estimated to offset 3,100 tons of carbon emissions over time at a manufacturing facility in Lealman run by Mesh, which has led several local interior projects, such as Cigar City Brewpub, The Salvador and others.

"Local officials laud massive rooftop solar installation." *Creative Loafing*. April 25, 2016.

U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor (FL14) is leading the way towards a clean energy future by empowering consumers and businesses to seize the power of solar power. She is a member of the powerful U.S. House Energy & Commerce Committee and its Subcommittee on Energy and Power. She is also a member of the Grid Innovation Caucus and Battery Storage Caucus. She was recently named to the exclusive conference committee to resolve differences between House-passed and Senate-passed energy bills.



U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor
Tampa Bay's voice in
the U.S. Congress

Early this year, she introduced the Clean Distributed Energy Grid Integration Act, a bipartisan bill to study obstacles of integrating distributed energy onto the grid. Other legislative actions and support include:

- Introduced a building energy efficiency bill that became law;
- Offered an amendment to increase funding for the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, which includes the Solar Energy Technologies Office
- Recommended to the Environmental Protection Agency to incorporate clean energy into its Environmental Justice plan
- Offered amendments to a broad energy bill referred to as the "energy package" to incentivize distributed energy systems and to properly value the benefits of solar energy to the grid
- Successfully offered first-of-its-kind "community solar" amendment to the energy package
- Co-sponsor of the American Renewable Energy and Efficiency Act to establish national renewable energy and energy efficiency standards;
- Co-sponsor of resolution to establish a national goal of more than 50 percent clean energy by 2030;
- Voted for the extension of the solar Investment Tax Credit;
- Supports the Administration's Clean Power Plan to reduce carbon pollution from the power sector by 32 percent in 2030;
- Strongly oppose Florida's "advanced nuclear recovery fee."
- Voted for the comprehensive energy and climate bill, the American Clean Energy and Security Act also known as the "Waxman-Markey" bill; added a provision to the bill to give states the flexibility to improve compensation for small renewable power projects.