



SARASOTA COUNTY

"Dedicated to Quality Service"

December 5, 2008

Ms. Ann Cole
Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850
Submitted to filings@psc.state.fl.us

Subject: Docket #080503 Renewable Portfolio Standard Rulemaking

Dear Ms. Cole,

As was stated in my letter dated September 3, Sarasota County is committed to building a Sustainable Community and supports passage of a Renewable Portfolio Standard of 20 percent by 2020 as a means to build the clean energy economy in our state. The Sarasota Board of County Commissioners has appointed a Solar Hot Water Citizen Task Force that is charged with determining an appropriate strategy for local government involvement in promoting solar water heating technologies in our community. Our citizens have identified solar thermal as a low cost, immediate solution to increasing our energy independence and building green jobs locally. This Task Force is currently working to determine how best to define a possible public-private partnership that would remove the up front funding barriers of solar thermal technology for homeowners and rapidly accelerate its application in our community.

As the Public Service Commission makes its final deliberations on the details of a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), Sarasota County would like to strongly encourage the inclusion of solar hot water offsets of electric generation. As one of the most cost-effective renewable energy technologies in Florida, solar hot water represents a low hanging fruit which will make any RPS target easier and less expensive to achieve. Inclusion of solar thermal in the RPS would also take advantage of a strong network of existing small businesses already engaged in the installation of the technology and prepared to quickly ramp up that effort with the right market and policy incentives.

Sincerely,

James L. Ley
County Administrator

c: Sarasota County Commission
Deputy County Administrators
Theresa Connor, P.E., Environmental Services Executive Director
Amy H. Meese, Natural Resources General Manager