



SARASOTA COUNTY

"Dedicated to Quality Service"

September 3, 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:

Sarasota County is committed to building a Sustainable Community and diversifying our local economy. Effective and ambitious implementation of renewable energy technologies is a priority strategy toward achieving this broadly supported goal. Sarasota County partnered with Florida Power and Light in hosting the largest solar array in the state on our Rothenbach Park, is developing landfill gas to energy projects on our landfills, and is exploring a potential project to deploy solar hot water heaters on homes around our community. Our citizens have identified renewable energy as a priority at their community environmental summit held in February and set a goal of 50 percent of homes with solar hot water heaters within five years. These initiatives and others will be key to developing local demand for renewable energy and building the potential for green jobs in our economy.

As the Public Service Commission considers the details of the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), Sarasota County would like to express support for a strong standard that would increase the local opportunities for renewable energy in communities like ours. With a requirement of 20 percent by 2020, utilities and customers would be presented with the incentives necessary to overcome market barriers and implement renewable energy projects at a scale that would boost local economic opportunities in the industry and help achieve sustainable energy goals in the near term.

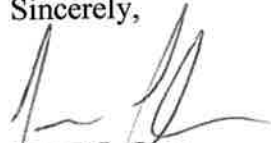
Sarasota County is particularly interested in the inclusion of solar hot water offsets of electric generation. This technology has been identified by our citizens as a key tool in the implementation of renewable energy, with proven technology, rapid payback, and significant energy potential. The inclusion of solar hot water heating in the Renewable Portfolio Standard would be critical to the achievement of our community's solar thermal goals.

The Florida Solar Energy Center (FSEC) has done an analysis that shows the current draft of the Renewable Portfolio Standard would put Florida last among all states with an RPS. The FSEC has shown that a target of 20 percent by 2020 would be achievable and economical, returning

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savings to citizens around the state and inspiring innovations among local businesses. Sarasota County would like to encourage the Public Service Commission to continue Florida's pattern of leadership on climate change and renewable energy, by recommending a rule that includes the 20 percent by 2020 standard and includes solar hot water among the eligible technologies.

Sincerely,



James L. Ley
County Administrator

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