

Iris Rollins

From: Ellen Plendl
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2022 8:39 AM
To: Consumer Correspondence
Subject: Docket No. 20220000
Attachments: electrical infrastructure shortcomings; more of the same; horrific planning!

See attached customer correspondence and reply for Docket No. 20220000.

Iris Rollins

From: Beatrice Balboa <beatricebalboa@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 9:45 AM
To: Ellen Plendl
Subject: electrical infrastructure shortcomings
Attachments: As lan recovery continues, plans to strengthen Florida's electric system get approval.pdf

Wednesday 5 October 2022 1000 hours

Ellen Plendl
Regulatory Consultant
Florida Public Service Commission
Office of Consumer Assistance & Outreach
1-800-342-3552 (phone)
1-800-511-0809 (fax)

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my ongoing deepest disappointment that the electrical utility industrial sector continues to mismanage the electrical infrastructure throughout the State of Florida despite given unfettered access to elected and appointed government officials and agencies in the furtherance of policies and agendas in pursuing poorly thought out sourcing of energy resources and a decidedly anti-consumer stance with the rate-paying public across the board. Ongoing investigations continue undercover the long-standing practices by these captains of industry to extract ever larger fees and electrical rates to aggrandize their oversized ambitions by direct and indirect political arrangements in backrooms.

The attached documentation clearly indicates the ongoing conditions of the electrical infrastructure in Southern Florida.

Please place these observations and articles in the appropriate docket to underscore the overwhelmingly calculated cold-hearted manner that these captains seem to influence the very elected/appointed representatives that should, instead, be seeking to comfort their constituents day-to-day hardships to pay for the aggrandizement of these out sized economic sectors.

Thank you for your time in these matters and hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,
Beatrice Balboa
1010 South Ocean Boulevard, Unit 1008
Pompano Beach, FL 33062-6631
USA



Miami Herald

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As Ian recovery continues, plans to strengthen Florida's electric system get approval

Jim Saunders, Miami Herald - 1h ago



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Less than a week after Hurricane Ian knocked out power to large swaths of Florida, state regulators Tuesday approved utilities' long-term plans to try to bolster the electric system.

The state Public Service Commission approved, with some changes, plans submitted by Florida Power & Light, Duke Energy Florida, Tampa Electric Co. and Florida Public Utilities Co. The plans detail a wide range of projects, including increasing the number of underground power lines.

But with the work expected to cost billions of dollars over the next decade, commissioners expressed concerns about effects on utility customers' pocketbooks. Monthly electric bills have climbed during the past year because of issues such as high prices of natural gas used to fuel power plants.

Also, customers in the coming months could get hit with additional costs related to restoring power after Ian.

As the commission Tuesday took up what are known as "storm protection plans," Commissioner Gary Clark described the situation as a "balance."

"We are never going to build a system that is storm-proof. It's not possible," Clark said.

Can costs be contained?

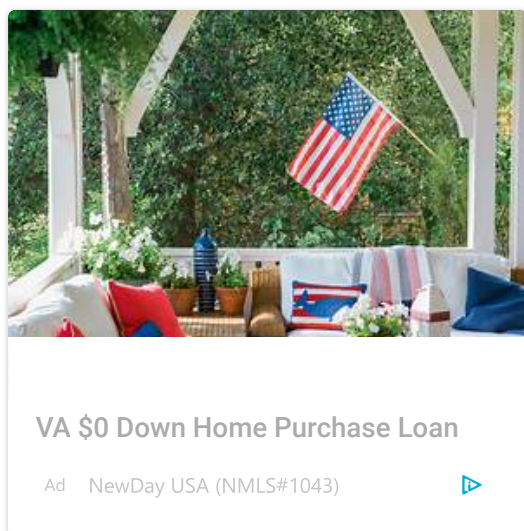
Commissioner Gabriella Passidomo also raised concerns about costs and benefits, saying that "maybe we need to just temper our pace a little bit in these investments and reassess over time about how effective they

Utilities filed the proposals in the spring, but Tuesday's commission votes came as crews continued to work on restoring power after Hurricane Ian slammed the Southwest Florida coast Wednesday and continued across the state.

Related video: Florida Power & Light Hurricane Ian Update



FPL, which provides electricity in many of the hardest-hit areas, said that as of 10 a.m. Tuesday, it had restored power to 1.9 million of 2.1 million customers affected by Ian.



“FPL has essentially completed restoration in all regions of the state except Southwest Florida, where Ian made landfall as a high-end Category 4 hurricane and downed trees and flooding continues to pose a challenge to crews working to restore service,” the utility said in a press release.

Meanwhile, Tampa Electric said Tuesday it had largely finished restoring power, though some customers are not able to receive electricity because of issues such as flooding or damage to homes' electrical equipment. Also, Duke said Monday it was finishing restoration.

The plans approved Tuesday were tied to a 2019 state law that passed after Hurricane Irma, Hurricane Michael and other storms caused widespread power outages. The Legislature almost unanimously passed the measure, which, in part, changed the way storm-protection projects were financed.

A different way for customers to pay for it

Previously, utilities incorporated such costs in their base electric rates, which are set for multiple years. But the law set up a separate Public Service Commission process that allowed utilities each year to seek to collect money from customers for the projects.

Utilities file 10-year storm-protection plans with the commission and then are able to seek money from customers annually to carry out the plans.

After the commission made some changes Tuesday, utilities will have until Oct. 25 to file revised plans. The commission is scheduled to hold a hearing Oct. 25 to Oct. 28 to determine the costs that will be passed along to consumers next year for the projects.

As an example of the money involved, FPL's proposal included more than \$4.67 billion in costs over the next three years, according to a commission staff recommendation. That was before Tuesday's changes, which would at least slightly reduce the amount.

In its proposal, FPL said the projects would largely continue efforts started under a plan approved in 2020 by the commission.

"The existing hardening and storm preparedness programs have already demonstrated that they have and will continue to increase T&D [transmission and distribution] infrastructure resiliency, reduce restoration times, and reduce restoration costs when FPL's system is impacted by extreme weather events," the proposal, filed in April, said.

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Iris Rollins

From: Beatrice Balboa <beatricebalboa@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 10:08 AM
To: Ellen Plendl
Subject: more of the same
Attachments: Plans to strengthen Florida's electric system get go-ahead - CBS Miami.pdf

Wednesday 5 October 2022 1000 hours

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Regulatory Consultant
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1010 South Ocean Boulevard, Unit 1008
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USA

Plans to strengthen Florida's electric system get go-ahead



BY CBS MIAMI TEAM

OCTOBER 5, 2022 / 7:36 AM / CBS/NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

TALLAHASSEE - Less than a week after Hurricane Ian knocked out power to large swaths of Florida, state regulators Tuesday approved utilities' long-term plans to try to bolster the electric system.

The state Public Service Commission approved, with some changes, plans submitted by Florida Power & Light, Duke Energy Florida, Tampa Electric Co., and Florida Public Utilities Co. The plans detail a wide range of projects, including increasing the number of underground power lines.

But with the work expected to cost billions of dollars over the next decade, commissioners expressed concerns about its effects on utility customers' pocketbooks. Monthly electric bills have climbed during the past year because of issues such as high prices of natural gas used to fuel power plants.

Also, customers in the coming months could get hit with additional costs related to restoring power after Ian.

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"We are never going to build a system that is storm-proof. It's not possible," Clark said.

Commissioner Gabriella Passidomo also raised concerns about costs and benefits, saying that "maybe we need to just temper our pace a little bit in these investments and reassess over time about how effective they are in certain areas. Because, as we have seen, every storm is very different."

Utilities filed the proposals in the spring, but Tuesday's commission votes came as crews continued to work on restoring power after Hurricane Ian slammed the Southwest Florida coast Wednesday and continued across the state.

FPL, which provides electricity in many of the hardest-hit areas, said that as of 10 a.m. Tuesday, it had restored power to 1.9 million of 2.1 million customers affected by Ian.

"FPL has essentially completed restoration in all regions of the state except Southwest Florida, where Ian made landfall as a high-end Category 4 hurricane and downed trees and flooding continue to pose a challenge to crews working to restore service," the utility said in a news release.

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Iris Rollins

From: Beatrice Balboa <beatricebalboa@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 8, 2022 1:42 PM
To: Ellen Plendl
Subject: horrific planning?!
Attachments: Hurricane Ian power outages_ Restoration in Lee, Collier county Florida.pdf; Power on for 99% of Florida, but 135,000 customers still await reconnection after Hurricane Ian.pdf; Beyond a week in the dark_ About 200,000 still without power.pdf; Storms and steep utility bills drive US rooftop solar boom _ Financial Times.pdf; Factbox-Around 109,000 still without power in Florida a week after Ian By Reuters.pdf; Factbox-Around 109,000 still without power in Florida a week after Ian _ SaltWire.pdf

Saturday 8 October 2022 1245 hours

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USA

Beyond a week in the dark: About 200,000 still without power

LCEC is still struggling to reconnect most of Cape Coral and other Lee County communities, as FPL announces a near 92% completion across more than a half-dozen counties.



By: [Alexandra Rangel](#) , Chase McPherson

Posted at 5:40 AM, Oct 06, 2022 and last updated 2:43 PM, Oct 06, 2022

CAPE CORAL, Fla. — As of Thursday morning's update from Lee County Electric Cooperative, more than 68,000 Cape Coral residents are still without power, accounting for the bulk of the company's 110,000 total outages.

FPL OUTAGES AS OF 5AM, Thursday Oct. 6

Sarasota - 24,330
DeSoto - 5,870
Charlotte - 42,500
Lee - 18,560
Hendry - 70

LCEC OUTAGES AS OF 6AM Thursday, Oct. 6

Marco Island - 2,089 out (17,493 on)
Immokalee - 140 out (15,600 on)
Carnestown - 425 out (2,814 on)

Collier - 292

Collier, Glades, and Sarasota residents may now report outages as normal.

Lehigh Acres - 254 out (32,872 on)

North Fort Myers - 30,376 out (25,903 on)

Cape Coral - 68,518 out (25,758 on)

Pine Island - 7,398 out (0 on)

Sanibel - 10,946 out (0 on)

Factbox-Around 109,000 still without power in Florida a week after Ian

Reuters | Posted: Oct. 5, 2022, 7:50 p.m. | Updated: 19 hours ago | 1 Min Read



(Reuters) - Nearly 109,000 homes and businesses still lacked power in Florida on Friday, eight days after Hurricane Ian crashed across the state on Sept. 28-29.

U.S. President Joe Biden met with Florida Governor Ron DeSantis this week to assess the devastation from Hurricane Ian, and stressed the need for a united federal and state effort for the lengthy recovery ahead.

Utilities have restored service to most customers after Ian knocked out power to more than 4 million in Florida and over 1.1 million in North Carolina and South Carolina.

Florida Power & Light Co (FPL) said it expects restoration to be essentially complete by Friday night.

But FPL noted that thousands of homes and businesses in southwest Florida, where the storm hit with 150 mile per hour (241 kph) winds on Sept. 28, were so badly damaged that they may not be able to safely receive electrical service.

FPL is a unit of Florida energy company NextEra Energy Inc.

Major outages by utility:

Power Company State/Pro Out Now Customers Served

vince

Lee County Electric Co-op FL 238,000

74,196

NextEra - FPL FL 5,280,000

35,058

Total Out

109,254

Source: PowerOutage.us and power companies

Factbox-Around 109,000 still without power in

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© Reuters. FILE PHOTO: Graffiti is seen on a destroyed shopping building after Hurricane Ian caused widespread destruction in Fort Myers Beach, Florida, U.S., October 3, 2022. REUTERS/Marco Bello

NEE

-2.76%

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Total Out

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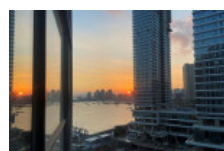
Source: PowerOutage.us and power companies



Turkey's Erdogan says he will keep cutting rates "as long as I am in power"

By Reuters - Oct 08, 2022 14

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China's holiday home sales fall 37.7% y/y - private survey

By Reuters - Oct 08, 2022 1

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China says U.S. abusing trade measures with chip export controls

By Reuters - Oct 08, 2022 5

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Stephen Fa

19 hours ago

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Report



Giovanna Alves

23 hours ago

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Report



gab nea

Oct 06, 2022 7:09AM ET

this useless gov. has blood on his hands again, first by denying covid for his elderly population, now he does so again by delaying the mandatory evacuation order! and you want this incompetent as president? your head should be examined!

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Power restoration in SWFL: LCEC reports 72% of customer are back on line



Mark H. Bickel

Fort Myers News-Press

LCEC reached the 72% restoration mark Saturday morning, according to a press release issued by the company.

Many parts of its six-county territory have been mostly restored for customers able to receive power.

Airport news: RSW will resume normal flight operations Tuesday, Oct. 11

Ian survivor: Fort Myers Beach survivor: Hurricane Ian was the 'most horrifying day of my life'

Close to 2,500 crews will continue with the monumental task of restoring power to the remaining customers over the weekend. Planning is also underway to begin work on the barrier islands of Sanibel and Pine Island. LCEC and its members have been supported by the following mutual aid and many more throughout the restoration process.

400 LCEC employees working tirelessly before, during, and after the storm to support more than 2,300 line workers requiring fuel, material and supplies, crew coordination, food, lodging, laundry, technology, and everything it takes restore power.

Governor Ron DeSantis and the Florida Electric Cooperative Association are helping in many ways including to bring additional line worker and tree trimmer resources to the area and options for accessing the barrier islands.

Hundreds of electric cooperative crews and contractors from across the nation arrived before the storm and additional crews joined the effort in the aftermath.

Line workers and support personnel from Duke Energy arrived this week to help restore power in Cape Coral and will then deploy to Pine Island to bring power to those who can receive power safely.

Florida Power & Light (FPL) is preparing to deploy a restoration workforce of a few hundred with a coordination team, critical materials and electrical equipment, logistics support, and help coordination with a barge to transport bucket trucks to Sanibel Island.

Power on for 99% of Florida, but 135,000 customers still await reconnection after Hurricane Ian

Most of them are in hard-hit Lee County, though outages in Charlotte, Sarasota, Collier and DeSoto counties are still in the thousands.

By Friday morning, 98.8% of customers in the Sunshine State had their lights on thanks to the work of utility line workers toiling away across the state, according to the most recent outages report from the **Public Service Commission**.

That's a more than 22-percentage-point improvement since the strike. In the nine days since Hurricane Ian made landfall near Fort Myers, Florida went from having **more than 2.6 million** without power to **about 135,100**.

More than two-thirds of those with continued outages receive power from electric cooperatives, private nonprofits that service customers in 58 of Florida's 67 counties. The remainder source their electricity from Florida Power & Light (**FPL**), the state's largest utility company.

Most of those awaiting service — 98,013 — are in Lee County, one of the counties worst hit when the near-Category 5 storm crashed into Southeast Florida on Oct. 28. Lee went from being 88% off the grid to roughly 21% powerless.

Of the accounts still offline Friday, 90,063 receive power through the Lee County Electric Cooperative (**LCEC**), a nonprofit that purchases all its power through FPL. The remaining 7,950 or so are hooked directly to FPL lines.



Charlotte County, which sits north of Lee along the Gulf Coast, still has 22,449 outages, representing 17.6% of the total utility accounts there. Of those, 97% are FPL customers, and the rest get electricity through LCEC.

North of Charlotte, 8,531 customers in Sarasota County need their power restored. FPL provides power to all but 40 of them. The rest receive service through the **Peace River Electric Cooperative**, which buys its power from nonprofit utility wholesaler **Seminole Electric Cooperative**.

There are also 4,583 customers in Collier County awaiting hookups (1.72% of all accounts), 1,235 customers in DeSoto County needing reconnection (6.6%), 101 customers in Manatee County pending service restoration (0.04%) and 60 or fewer customers without power in Hardee, Hendry, Glades, Broward and Hillsborough

As more than 21,000 FPL line workers toil statewide to reconnect those still without power, the company's Chair and CEO, **Eric Silagy**, said progress will be slow in the hardest hit areas.



“We are still racing to get customers back on but are now contending with significant damage to gain access to power lines and equipment that serve only a handful of customers,” he said in a statement Thursday. “At this point, we have thousands of individual jobs that, in many respects, require individual attention. Rest assured we will not stop until every customer has access to power.”

 Jesse Scheckner

October 7, 2022

5 min

- Electricity
- Eric Silagy
- Hurricane Ian
- Lee County Electric Cooperative
- Peace River Electric Cooperative
- Power Restoration
- Public Service Commission
- Seminole Electric Cooperative

Related Articles

HURRICANE RESPONSE

Disaster Recovery Center opens in Naples

Storms and steep utility bills drive US rooftop solar boom

Installations have risen by 40% year on year as households seek alternatives after blackouts



The upfront cost of US home solar systems is about \$20,000, though the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act provides a federal tax credit of about \$6,000 © Justin Sullivan/Getty Images

Justin Jacobs in Houston 8 HOURS AGO

Extreme weather and higher electricity prices are leading American households to bolt a record number of solar panels to their rooftops, loosening ties to the power grid and the utilities that run it.

About 5.3 gigawatts of residential [solar power capacity](#) are to be installed this year, the biggest year for new installations and roughly equivalent to total rooftop solar capacity nationwide in 2015, the US Energy Information Administration has forecast.

Installations jumped about 40 per cent year on year with about 180,000 US homes adding systems in the second quarter, according to the latest data compiled by consultancy Wood Mackenzie.

Home electricity prices are forecast to rise 7.5 per cent this year after climbing 4.3 per cent last year, according to the EIA. Rates have climbed largely because of higher prices for natural gas used to fuel power plants.

“You’re going to continue to see some pretty big increases in monopoly utility bills over the next few months and quarters and we’re seeing growth because of that,” said John Berger, chief executive of Texas-based Sunnova, one of the US’s largest rooftop solar installers.

Executives and analysts also point to the numerous storms, heatwaves and fires across the country that have exposed deep vulnerabilities in the reliability of power grids across the US. [Hurricane Ian](#) last month knocked out power to 2.6mn customers in Florida. The storm came just days after [Hurricane Fiona](#) caused blackouts in Puerto Rico.

“In Puerto Rico right now, sales are just vertical . . . they’re just off the charts. I expect that is what’s going to happen in Florida behind this storm [Ian]. It’s just natural human emotion,” Berger said.

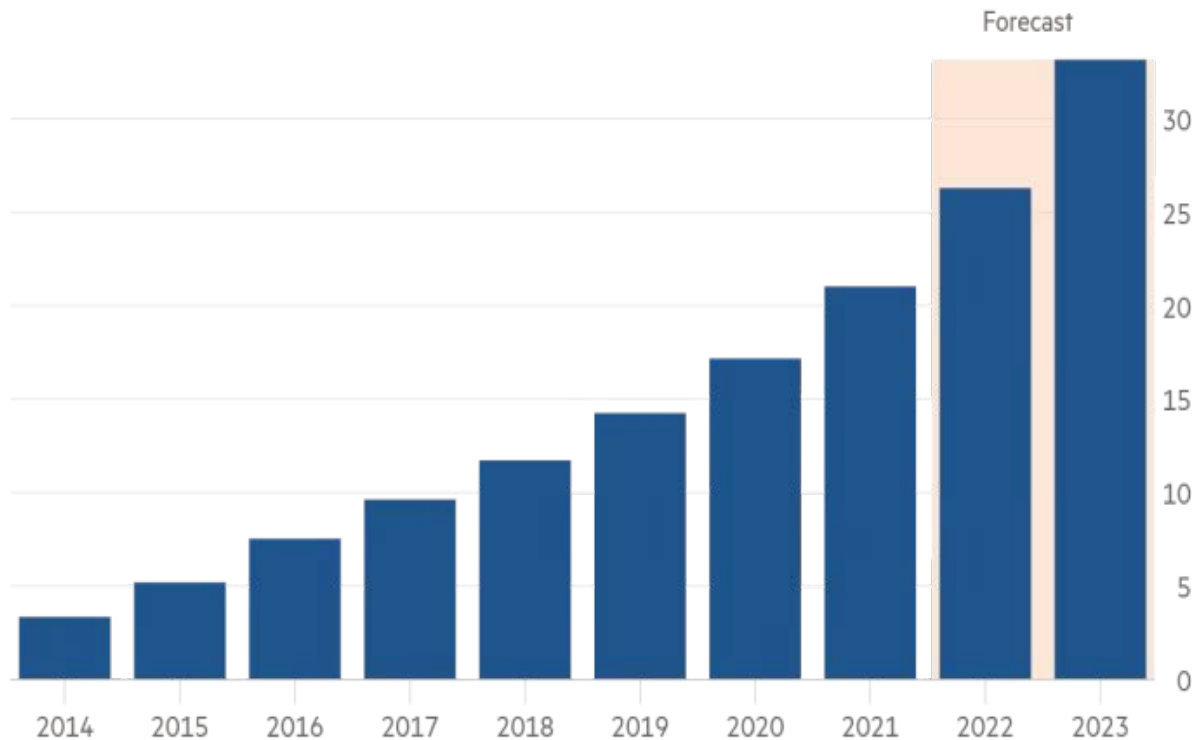
More households are pairing solar panels with back-up batteries that can keep the lights on when the sun is down during outages, in addition to saving surplus energy for later use. About 20 per cent of home solar installations include battery storage, a share that has roughly doubled since 2020, according to EnergySage, a solar market research group.

On his house outside of Houston, Kevin Lee said he installed solar panels and a Tesla Powerwall battery after a severe winter storm knocked out much of the [Texas power grid](#) in February 2021.

“I never wanted to go through something like that again, and having this really does make us feel safer when there are storms coming, whether they’re hurricanes or freezes,” he said.

Rooftop solar scales new heights

Installed rooftop solar capacity, gigawatts



Source: Energy Information Administration

© FT

A US energy department study on how to hit its goal of making the economy net emissions free by 2050 found that as much as 200GW of rooftop solar could be deployed by the middle of the century, up from about 26GW now. It said about 10 to 20 per cent of total solar capacity deployed would be bolted to rooftops.

Mary Powell, chief executive of Sunrun, the largest US home solar installer, told the Financial Times the company was easily outpacing its projections of 25 per cent growth in installed capacity it had expected for 2022. “We’ve had some of our highest sales records as a company ever in the last couple of months.”

Even as it expands, rooftop solar only accounts for about 1 per cent of total US power generation. Residential systems are also dwarfed by large, “utility-scale” solar facilities, typically built on the ground in vast arrays that feed directly into the grid. The EIA expects about 21.5GW of large-scale installations this year.

Sunny southern states like California, Florida and Texas are the fastest areas of growth.

The upfront cost of home solar systems is about \$20,000, according to the Solar Energy Industries Association, a trade group. Customers are able to defray these costs with loans to lessen the upfront expenses as well as state and federal tax credits. The recently passed Inflation Reduction Act raised the federal tax credit available for new installations to 30 per cent, or about \$6,000 off the average system.

Homeowners in some states are also able to defray expenses through “net metering”, which requires electric companies to buy excess energy generated by solar systems. The policy has triggered a backlash from utilities, which argue it is unfair when homeowners are paid for producing electricity but do not have to share the costs of operating and maintaining the grid. Utilities also fear that rooftop solar could dent demand for their electricity.

California’s public utility commission is expected in the coming weeks to announce new net metering rules that solar advocates fear could reduce incentives for rooftop solar.

In April this year, Florida governor [Ron DeSantis](#), a Republican, vetoed a bill passed by lawmakers from his party that would have rolled back the net metering solar incentive. He said he did not want to impose new costs on Floridians amid rising inflation.

The fight over home solar energy has exposed splits within the clean energy industry. One of the backers of the vetoed bill was utility Florida Power & Light. FPL is a subsidiary of NextEra Energy, which also owns the US’s top developer of large-scale solar and wind power projects and has declared [aggressive goals](#) to end its carbon emissions. The company did not respond to a request for comment.

Sunnova’s Berger said the utilities were defending a “Soviet-style” system that prevents competition in the power sector because they worry that the growth of home solar will eat into their market.

“Consumers don’t have choices. They don’t get to choose their power provider, and I think they should be able to and I think more and more people are demanding that,” he said.