Agenda Item #: 38-1

PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date:	November 28, 2017	[] Consent [] Ordinance	[X] []	Regular Public Hearing	
Department:	Office of Resilience				
Submitted By:	Administration				

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to adopt: Resolution Supporting Solar Purchasing Co-ops in concept; directing the County Administrator or County Administrator's designee to provide in-kind support for informational meetings on solar co-ops; providing for an effective date.

Summary: At the November 7, 2017, BCC meeting, staff was directed to prepare a resolution supporting solar purchasing co-ops pursuant to a request from the League of Women Voters, Palm Beach County. The League of Women Voters, Sierra Club and other local organizations are partnering with a non-profit organization, Solar United Neighbors of Florida, to create one or more solar co-ops in Palm Beach County. Materials from Solar United Neighbors of Florida describe solar co-ops as groups of homeowners in a particular area who have joined together with the intention of installing solar panels on their homes. Co-op members leverage bulk-purchasing power to get discounted pricing and quality installation while receiving support from the non-profit. The proposed resolution provides a statement of support for the concept of solar co-ops and directs the County Administrator to provide 1 limited in-kind support for informational meetings. <u>Countywide</u> (LB)

Background and Justification: Solar United Neighbors of Florida has established solar purchasing co-ops in Broward County, Sarasota County, Alachua County, Hillsborough County, Volusia County, Seminole County, Orange County, St. Petersburg and the Space Coast Region. The City of West Palm Beach is supporting the concept locally. Residential solar power generation systems can generate pollution-free renewable energy, reduce energy bills, and contribute to resilience to hurricanes and other severe weather events. It is the Board's policy to support projects and policies promoting renewable energy and the construction of resilient infrastructure.

Attachments: Resolution

Recommended By: _	N/14	
	\frown	Date
Approved By:	(-)	11-16-17
	Deputy County Administrator	Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Capital					
Expenditures					
Operating Costs					
External					
Revenues					
Program					
Income(County)					
In-Kind					
Match(County					
NET FISCAL IMPACT	\$0				
#ADDITIONAL					
FTE					
POSITIONS (CUMULATIVE)					

Is Item Included in Current Budget? Does this item include the use of federal funds?

No X No X

Yes

Yes

Budget Account No:

Fund	Agency	Organization	Object
		•	

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact: The fiscal impact is minimal and limited to providing assistance with meeting space.

C. Departmental Fiscal Review:

III. REVIEW COMMENTS:

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:

OFMB A III61

B. Legal Sufficiency

Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review

Department Director

(THIS SUMMARY IS NOT TO BE USED AS A BASIS FOR PAYMENT.)

Contract Dev, & Control

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SOLAR PURCHASING CO-OPS IN CONCEPT; DIRECTING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S DESIGNEE TO PROVIDE IN-KIND SUPPORT FOR INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS ON SOLAR CO-OPS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, there is growing interest from homeowners in Palm Beach County to reduce their energy bills, generate pollution-free renewable energy, and to be resilient to storms and hurricanes; and

WHEREAS, elsewhere in Florida and in other parts of the country, neighborhood solar purchasing co-ops have been created through entities such as Solar United Neighborhoods of Florida working with several counties and city governments; and

WHEREAS, solar purchasing co-ops are voluntary groups that may buy solar panels or other solar infrastructure in bulk for their members as a way to make solar power more affordable and accessible to the members of solar coops; and

WHEREAS, solar purchasing co-ops may also offer technical expertise and individualized assistance to property owners who are interested in solar power; and

WHEREAS, Solar United Neighbors of Florida has established solar purchasing co-ops in Broward County, Sarasota County, Alachua County,

Hillsborough County, Volusia County, Seminole County, Orange County, St. Petersburg, and the Space Coast region; and

WHEREAS, Solar United Neighbors of Florida is in the process of establishing solar purchasing co-ops in Palm Beach County, and property owners in the County who are interested in solar power may benefit from being able to choose to be part of a solar co-op; and

WHEREAS, Solar United Neighbors of Florida has represented that its solar purchasing co-ops around the country include moderate income neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners wishes to support the creation of solar purchasing co-ops in concept and to in-kind support for informational meetings on solar co-ops for interested property owners in Palm Beach County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

Section 1.

This Board hereby expresses its support in concept for solar purchasing co-ops and directs the County Administrator or County Administrator's designee to provide, in her discretion, in-kind support for informational meetings on solar purchasing co-ops throughout the County.

Section 2.

The provisions of this Resolution shall take effect upon adoption.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner _____,

who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner

_____, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Commissioner Hal R. Valeche	-	
Commissioner Paulette Burdick	_	
Commissioner Dave Kerner	_	
Commissioner Steven L. Abrams	-	
Commissioner Mary Lou Berger:	-	
Commissioner Melissa McKinlay	_	
Commissioner Mack Bernard	-	

The Chair thereupon declared the Resolution duly passed and adopted this _____

day of _____, 2017.

Palm Beach County, Florida by its Board of County Commissioners

Sharon R. Bock, Clerk & Comptroller

BY:

Deputy Clerk

Approved as to Form and Legal Sufficiency

BY: Assistant County Attorney