

# GEORGIA'S ENERGY SYSTEM IS WORKING

## Community Solar Policies Put Affordability at Risk

### AFFORDABLE ENERGY HAS BEEN GEORGIA'S ADVANTAGE

#### ENERGY AFFORDABILITY DRIVES JOBS & ECONOMIC GROWTH IN GA

Georgia's success in attracting jobs and investment is not accidental. Businesses expand and locate in states where energy costs are affordable, predictable, and stable over the long term.

Energy-intensive industries, such as manufacturing, logistics, data centers, & advanced technologies, depend on electricity prices they can plan around. Georgia's favorable regulatory framework has made the state a top destination for growth.

#### GEORGIA'S ECONOMIC MOMENTUM



**26,900**

*New private-sector jobs committed across the state*



**\$20.3 Billion**

*In new private investment driven by Georgia's pro-growth, cost-competitive environment*



**429**

*Facility expansions and new business locations supported statewide (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)*



**\$882.5 Billion**

*Georgia's gross domestic product – ranking among the strongest state economies in the nation*

#### WHY THIS MATTERS FOR ENERGY POLICY

These investments and jobs are built on confidence in Georgia's energy system.

When electricity remains affordable and policy remains predictable:

- Businesses invest for the long term
- Employers create jobs with confidence
- Communities benefit from sustained economic growth

Policies that increase electricity costs, such as higher-cost community solar, put this momentum at risk by weakening the affordability advantage that draws employers to Georgia in the first place.

#### WHY COMMUNITY SOLAR RAISES COSTS FOR GEORGIA CONSUMERS

Community solar delivers the same energy at a higher cost.

Smaller project size and higher per-unit costs make community solar **more expensive to build and operate.** When promoted through policy, those higher costs are absorbed into the system and passed on to consumers through higher energy bills. While participation may be voluntary, the cost impact is not.

Community solar policies can also result in **cost shifting**, where customers who do not participate subsidize higher-cost projects, disproportionately affects families on fixed incomes, small businesses operating on thin margins, and customers without access to community solar programs.

At the same time, Georgia's electricity demand is projected to grow by more than 12,000 megawatts over the next decade, driven by manufacturing growth, population increases, and data centers.

#### CEA'S BOTTOM LINE

Georgia's rising electricity demand makes **cost-effective energy planning** more important than ever. Ranked 7th nationally in total installed solar capacity, Georgia is **already expanding solar - without driving up energy bills.**

Nearly all solar generation in Georgia comes from utility-scale projects, which delivers **more affordable, reliable energy for less.** This approach allows Georgia to increase investments in cleaner energy sources while ensuring affordability for families and businesses across the state.

Community solar would move the state in the **opposite direction** by introducing higher-cost projects that can promote cost shifting and increase upward pressure on electricity rates and weaken cost discipline.

Policymakers should protect what's working, not advance energy policy that Georgia families and businesses can't afford.



CONSUMER ENERGY ALLIANCE