

February 21, 2013

United States Department of Energy  
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Field Office  
Golden Field Office, Office of Financial Assistance  
Re: Rooftop Solar Challenge II Grant: DE-FOA-0000788

This letter extends our commitment to the second phase of Broward County's Rooftop Solar Challenge II Grant Program. If funding is approved, the City of Gainesville, representing a population of 125,000, agrees to make personnel available as needed throughout the life of the grant by contributing in-kind staff time or other resources. This may include:

- (1) A point-person to coordinate grant-related staff activities, ensure appropriate training is completed with respect to implementing a streamlined permitting database, and attend periodic Stakeholders' meetings;
- (2) Existing Building Officials to provide technical and administrative assistance supporting the project's goals and objectives;
- (3) Existing Planning & Zoning Officials to provide technical assistance regarding municipal policies and procedures;
- (4) IT staff to provide appropriate maintenance of municipal websites, attend website trainings related to the streamlined permitting database, and offer educational courses to affected staff.

In return, I understand that the City of Gainesville will receive software/database access to the streamlined permitting system developed by the grant, free-of-charge.

The City of Gainesville has demonstrated leadership and commitment to the implementation of solar energy systems through implementation of a first in the nation solar feed-in tariff by our City-owned utility, Gainesville Regional Utilities, resulting in dramatic increases in the generation of solar energy in our community.

The City has also made progress in addressing planning and permitting issues that may act as barriers to the expansion of solar energy systems but realizes that more needs to be done. By working cooperatively with other Florida municipalities and counties, funding from the Department of Energy should enable Broward County to use the lessons, tools, and experience acquired over the past year to support the implementation of unified strategies that will improve the solar market throughout Florida. We look forward to working collaboratively on this program, and fully support its proposed goals and objectives.

Sincerely,

Craig Lowe, Mayor  
City of Gainesville