

Office of School Facilities
Jaime G. Torrens, Chief Facilities Officer

SUBJECT: ACCEPT DONATION OF A SOLAR ENERGY DEMONSTRATION SYSTEM FROM FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

COMMITTEE: FACILITIES AND CONSTRUCTION REFORM

**LINK TO
STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVE EFFICIENCY AND THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT**

Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) has selected Miami-Dade County Public Schools as one of six Florida school districts to receive a demonstration solar photovoltaic system. This is a pilot program to promote practical solar energy utilization projects that will raise the consciousness of students and the general public regarding the importance of alternative energy sources. The proposed project is consistent with the "High Performance Schools" design concept advocated by Board Member Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman and approved by the Board on March 16, 2005, (Item B-9).

Mandarin Lakes K-8 Academy, one of the District's new prototype school designs, has been selected to receive this renewable energy project which will be integrated into the curriculum for science and environmental studies. The solar panels will generate the equivalent electricity to illuminate five classrooms and will provide real-time data for students to track actual energy produced. The system's performance will be accessible via the Internet enabling students throughout the District and the state to also benefit from the project. Teachers will attend FPL sponsored educational workshops to maximize the incorporation of this renewable system as an instructional tool.

The objectives of the Solar Schools Program are to:

1. Foster long-term interest and promote expansion of solar energy by exposing students, teachers, and the local community to functional photovoltaic solar systems in a learning environment.
2. Educate thousands of students and teachers across Florida about the important role that solar energy can play in meeting a portion of the state's electric demand, promoting local economic development and providing energy security and a clean environment for future generations.

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3. Provide significant and readily accessible sources of performance and economic data online that students can access and analyze as a component of existing curriculum requirements.
4. Link schools, electric utilities, and local communities together in partnerships that promote broader use of solar energy.

The solar energy demonstration system will be donated and installed by FPL at no cost to the District and in accordance with all District requirements, specifications, permits and inspections. Although the system requires no routine servicing, the District will be responsible for any on-going expenses necessary to maintain and continuously operate the system. The approximate value of the project is \$80,000. A Photovoltaic Donation System Contract has been submitted to the School Board Attorney's office for review and approval prior to execution.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida authorize the Superintendent to:

1. accept a solar energy demonstration system from Florida Power & Light Company at Mandarin Lakes K-8 Academy, and
2. enter into an agreement with Florida Power & Light Company for the donation and installation of the solar demonstration system, valued at \$80,000, at no cost to the District and in conformance with all applicable District requirements.