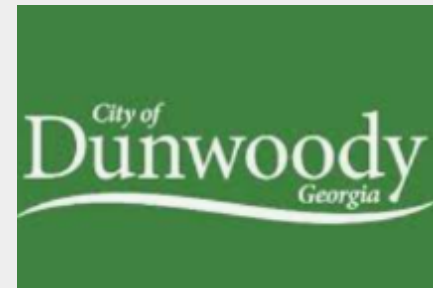


# Solar in Dunwoody

## 1. Solar benefits and adoption by local governments in Georgia

### 1. Introduction to different models for installing solar

- Larry Heiman - Vice- Chair, City of Dunwoody Sustainability Committee



### 1. Overview of GA Bright Program

- Larry Heiman or Tim Shelton (GA Bright)

### 1. Recent Dunwoody United Methodist Church Project

- Anne Hicks - DUMC Environmental Stewardship Committee



### 1. Recommendations / Q&A

# Benefits of Solar

#9.

- **Lower** net electricity costs
- Option to provide **resilience services** to community (if battery storage system added)
- Position Dunwoody as an **innovative city and supporter** of local solar manufacturing and installation jobs (**positive PR effect**)
- **Reduce** greenhouse gas emissions
- **Realize** Resource Efficiency goal (D.3.a) of Dunwoody Sustainability Plan
  - City “will support renewable energy programs and adopt its use in government operations.”



# Solar in Georgia (Savannah)

#9.

- City of Savannah has installed solar on 29 buildings and expects \$1.4 million in savings over 25 years



A solar panel array near the Talmadge Memorial Bridge in downtown Savannah.

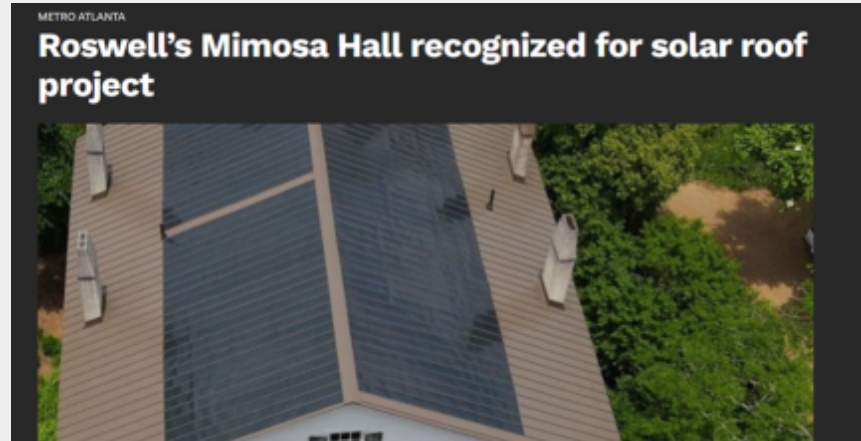
**SAVANNAH'S SOLAR POWER EXPANSION BENEFITS  
LOCAL TAXPAYERS**

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# Cities with Solar: Tucker and Roswell

#9.

- City of **Tucker** has solar + battery storage system
  - Expects to **save \$7,500** annually on utility costs. Provides community a safe place to stay warm and recharge devices in the event of an emergency
- City of **Roswell** Mimosa Hall installed solar
  - Provides electricity equal to its use



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# Introduction to Different Models for Solar

# Ways to Access Solar - Ownership

#9.

## PURCHASE

- Buy system outright
- Take the tax credit
- Responsible for all insurance and maintenance

## SOLAR LOAN

- Bank may require down payment, then regular monthly payments
- Buyer responsible for all insurance and maintenance
- Buyer gets the tax credit
- Interest rates are currently 4.9-9.9%

## OPTIONS TO PAY

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# Ways to Access Solar - Third Party

#9.

## SOLAR ENERGY PROCUREMENT & SERVICES AGREEMENT (SEPA)

- Solar company installs and operates rooftop system
- Building owner does not have upfront costs
- Building owner does not get the tax credits
- Building owner purchases the solar electricity at a fixed rate per kWh
  - Usually a \$/kWh less than the utility
- Solar company responsible for all insurance and maintenance
- **Not available everywhere**

## SOLAR LEASE

- Solar company installs and operates rooftop system
- Building owner uses the electricity and pays fixed monthly bill
- Building owner does not have upfront costs
- Building owner does not get the tax credits
- Solar company responsible for all insurance and maintenance
- Option to purchase after tax credit period (5-7 years)
- Solar energy production guarantee



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# Solar Works for Georgia



## Georgia BRIGHT

Building Renewables, Investing for Green, Healthy, Thriving Communities



# What is the **GA BRIGHT** program?

#9.

- **Launches early August 2025**
- GA BRIGHT is a statewide initiative funded by a \$156 million EPA **Solar For All** grant (federally-subsidized, guaranteed savings)
- Over 16,000 GA households + non-profits to benefit by April of 2029
  - Special focus on income-eligible households and organizations offering services to communities
- GA BRIGHT handles **installation, financing, and ongoing operations**
- GA BRIGHT offers a **performance guarantee so systems deliver as promised**



# Why Partner with **GA BRIGHT**?

#9.

- Dunwoody is positioned to be a **model city for GA BRIGHT implementation**

## Advantages over Purchasing Independently

- Likely to achieve **greatest cost savings** on electricity bills
- **25-Year lease with no upfront cost for the city**
- **Option** to buy out the system after 7 years for additional long-term savings
- **Removes operational burden from city staff** (25 years of monitoring, maintenance, and repairs - protecting savings)
- GA BRIGHT manages federal tax credits directly



# Dunwoody United Methodist Church

- Installed late May 2025



**DUNWOODY**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**We've gone solar!**



# DUMC's Solar Saves \$\$ and Emissions

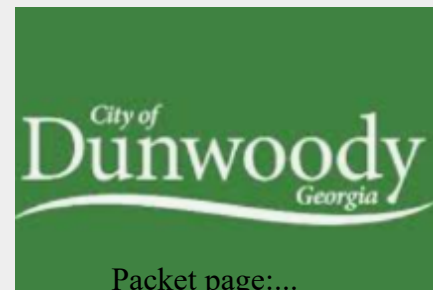
- Dunwoody's new, large 152 kW array
- Supplying ~203,000 kWh (~22% of electricity)
- **Monthly net savings of ~\$1,800 (~20%)**
- Reduces GHG emissions (75 tons annually)
- Designed and installed by **Sunpath Solar** consisting of 250 Georgia-made panels
- Leased through GA BRIGHT SEPA, includes:
  - **Immediate savings, no upfront costs**
  - Cost escalates annually at just 2.7% (lower than expected utility rate hikes)
  - 25-year lease (~lifespan of panels)
  - Purchase option at Year 7
  - Maintenance and production guarantee
  - Removal at lease-end (or purchase)



# Recommendations

#9.

- Discuss and **strongly consider applying to GA BRIGHT program to enjoy greatest savings**
  - Similar to the DUMC solar model
  - If application is accepted, work with GA BRIGHT program-designated solar contractor to determine the buildings to install solar on, and other details
- **OR, if City Council does not want to pursue the GA BRIGHT program, consider option to purchase or lease solar independently**
  - Engage in RFP process to select solar contractor to work with and determine properties to install solar on



## Q&A