**Energy Information to Inform the Discussion**

**Key findings from the below:**

1. **Renewable energies that are available in the market today can supply 80% of total U.S. electricity demand**.
2. The Department of Defense has called for the need for more energy efficiency and renewable energies.
3. The Tea Party and environmentalists in Georgia worked together to make **solar energy affordable** for building owners so people could own their energy sources.

**1) Renewable Energies Potentials**

* Renewable Energies Potentials to Meet US Energy Needs (from the National Renewable Energy Lab) <http://www.nrel.gov/analysis/re_futures/index.html>

**2) Military and Renewable Energy**

* Department of Defense Sustainable Energy Efforts <https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1143863/air-force-develops-new-deployable-energy-systems/>

**3)** **Making solar energy affordable for building owners** - Article from the Atlanta Business Chronicle describing how Georgia residents can now use third party financing to put solar on their home or building because of the passage of the “Solar Power Free-Market Financing Act of 2015”. This financing structure means a homeowner can put a solar energy system on their house with no money up front and pay for the energy as it is produced. This allows access to solar and cost effective implementation. - <http://www.bizjournals.com/atlanta/blog/capitol_vision/2015/05/gov-deal-signs-solar-bill.html>

**Conservatives supporting solar** - The above bill was strongly supported by the conservative grassroots group [Georgians for Solar Freedom](http://www.gasolarfreedom.com/about-us/) and a coalition of the Georgia Tea Party and the Sierra Club.

Excerpt from an [article](http://www.bloomberg.com/bw/articles/2013-11-27/tea-party-sierra-club-unite-to-support-solar-energy-in-georgia) on the Tea Party/Sierra Club coalition:

“When do Tea Party Republicans stand together with Sierra Club environmentalists?

The answer lies in their support for solar energy. The Green Tea Coalition, a Georgia-based group, is reviving a Republican Party link with the Sierra Club that dates back more than a century to President Theodore Roosevelt. Their goal is to reignite support for environmental conservation and fight traditional utilities’ market power by pushing alternative energy sources, especially solar power. “Some people have called this an unholy alliance,” says Debbie Dooley, a co-founder of both the coalition and the Atlanta Tea Party Patriots…”

Also see [www.CleanTaxCuts.org](http://www.CleanTaxCuts.org) for more information on the conservative approach to building a healthy economy with cleaner energy and more jobs.

**How Companies like SolarCity make Solar Affordable**
SolarCity® (NASDAQ: SCTY) provides clean energy. The company has disrupted the century-old energy industry by providing renewable electricity directly to homeowners, businesses and government organizations for less than they spend on utility bills. SolarCity gives customers control of their energy costs to protect them from rising rates. The company makes solar energy easy by taking care of everything from design and permitting to monitoring and maintenance. SolarCity currently serves 18 states. Visit the company online at [www.solarcity.com](http://www.solarcity.com) and see media coverage of the company at <http://www.solarcity.com/newsroom/in-the-news>

**4) Additional Information**

* International Energy Outlook (from the  U.S. Energy Information Administration) <http://www.eia.gov/forecasts/ieo/>
* Energy Production, Consumption and Expenditures per person for each state (from the  U.S. Energy Information Administration)  <http://www.eia.gov/state/>
* U.S. electricity generation by energy source (from the U.S. Energy Information Administration)  <http://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.cfm?id=427&t=3>
* **How the US Ranks Internationally**
Wasting Money on Inefficient Energy (from the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy) <http://aceee.org/portal/national-policy/international-scorecard>
* **Additional Data Sets**

The items below only for those that want to explore more information
International Energy Statistics from the UN:

<http://unstats.un.org/UNSD/energy/default.htm>
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/energy/balance/default.htm>