

FPL DeSoto Next Generation Solar Energy Center

DeSoto County



Built in 2009, the FPL DeSoto Next Generation Solar Energy Center was the largest solar installation of its kind in the nation at the time and was commissioned by President Barack Obama. Starting with this milestone achievement, Florida Power & Light Company has led a rapid solar expansion for the Sunshine State, advancing cost-effective solar for all customers while keeping customer bills well below the national average.

Location: 4051 NE Karson St, Arcadia, FL 34266



How a Solar Energy Center Works







Grazing Sheep: An Innovative Vegetation Management Plan

The FPL DeSoto Next Generation Solar Energy Center was the first solar site to employ sheep as part of an innovative vegetation management plan. FPL partnered with a local farmer to have 25 sheep graze on 25 acres at the solar facility. After the initial testing period with encouraging results, we added even more sheep to the site. Small herds of grazing sheep provide a natural solution to maintain the land at the site, minimizing the need for herbicides.



Florida's Energy Landscape is Bright

Florida Power & Light Company offers America's best energy value with the cleanest, most reliable energy at a price that's one of the lowest in the country. The company has a groundbreaking Real Zero goal of eliminating carbon emissions from our power plant fleet by no later than 2045. We plan to achieve Real Zero with a diverse mix of solar, batteries, existing nuclear, green hydrogen and other renewable sources. And, as we work toward Real Zero, we intend to keep customer bills well below the national average, just as they've been for more than a decade.



FPL's Commitment to DeSoto County



Since FPL built its first large-scale solar installation, the DeSoto Next Generation Solar Energy Center, in 2009, the company has added four more in DeSoto County – bringing the county's total number of FPL solar energy centers to five. In 2016, FPL built the county's second solar energy center, the FPL Citrus Solar Energy Center. In 2018 and 2020 respectively, FPL built the Wildflower and Cattle Ranch sites. Finally, in 2021, FPL built the Rodeo Solar Energy Center.



FPL SolarNow trees and canopies are innovative solar structures that provide shade and harness the power of the sun while generating emissions-free energy that benefits everyone. In DeSoto County, the county administration building is home to two FPL SolarNow trees that teach students and visitors about clean energy.