# Duke Energy provides solar energy

**BY STEPHANIE JADRNICEK**
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Solar energy is quickly becoming a viable option in South Carolina, and Duke Energy Progress and Duke Energy Carolinas received approval earlier this month from the Public Service Commission to offer a variety of new solar energy options to South Carolina customers.

"The elements of the approved program include upfront cash rebates to customers who install solar facilities on their premises, a shared solar program allowing multiple customers to share in the economic benefits of a single solar facility and a request for proposals for larger solar capacity," Duke Energy spokesman Ryan Mosier said.

In June 2014, Gov. Nikki Haley signed Act 236, otherwise known as the Distributed Energy Resource Program Act. The comprehensive legislation promotes solar expansion by providing producers and consumers of electricity with more choices such as leasing of solar panels and incentive programs for installing solar.

"Duke Energy's goal over the next five years is to provide our customers access to solar energy and grow our renewable footprint from less than two megawatts of capacity to 110 megawatts of solar capacity," Mosier said.



SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

**Duke Energy is offering rebate programs, incentives and shared programs to provide viable solar options to customers.**

## Options

To procure renewable energy from large solar facilities located in the state, Duke will issue a request for proposals this fall. All facilities will be located in the Duke Energy service area of South Carolina and in service by Dec. 31, 2016.

Homeowners and business owners who install solar photovoltaic facilities may receive rebates through Duke Energy's solar rebate program. Rebates are available to customers who have installed solar since Jan. 1, 2015, or who want to install solar. Upon completion of solar installation, customers will receive $1 per watt.

"A customer may apply the rebate to a purchase, loan or lease of a solar facility and may elect to net meter the energy or sell all energy to the utility," Mosier said.

Multiple customers may also subscribe to a shared solar program to share in the economic benefits from a single solar facility.

Duke Energy will market the program to customers who hold tax-exempt status, who live in multifamily housing or rent homes and to those who may not have access to solar energy otherwise.

"To participate, a qualified customer will first submit an application. Once accepted into the program, a residential customer will pay a one-time subscription fee of $50 per kilowatt (or $100 per kilowatt if non-residential)," Mosier said. "Each month a customer will also pay a subscription fee of $6.00-$6.25 per kilowatt per month."

Customers participating in the shared solar program will receive monthly bill credits based upon the value of the energy produced by their subscription.

Duke will implement the solar rebate program within 90 days of the program's approval on July 15, and the shared solar program will be available once the initial solar facilities are operational in early 2016.

stephanie@upstatetoday.com | (864) 973-6686