

YEAR 2019

FREA - Solar Tour General Visitor Information

Visitor Tour Information and Operation

October, 11 - Friday, from 3 - 7 pm and October 12, Saturday, 10 am to 3 pm.

The American Solar Energy Society (ASES) has conducted 24 Annual National Solar Tours. The Florida Renewable Energy Association has participated in the ASES National Solar Tour for the past 10 years. FREA is the Florida Chapter of ASES. This event is free to all and conducted by FREA people and volunteers.

Over the years, FREA has used a variety of formats for local events. We have teamed with FLASIEA, UCF, OUC, Ideas-for-us, Solar-Users-Group, Solar-fit, Solar-ray, FL-SUN and other organizations. We have had organizations provide sites for the tour, from FREA members, the general public and general industry. In 2018, ASES partnered nationally with Solar United Neighbors to in-charge the national program.

Distance between sites has a lot to do with attendance of visitors at each individual site, as well as, the type of PV system at the site. Attendance has varied widely, with a high of 300 in 2013 to as low of 20 in the Spring of 2017. Comparing our attendance with other chapters, we are about average.

This year, FREA has organized and scheduled one solar tour over a two day period in Titusville, Florida. We have allocated as many as 12 home and business sites in this tour. Attendees can decide which site they wish to attend throughout the scheduled tour time or join an organized guided bike tour.

The owner or representative of the system will be at their site during the time of the tour on Friday or Saturday that weekend. We ask you not to come any other day or time than what is published. FREA is concerned about your safety, so follow directions of FREA and site owner for your safety. There are some sites that are drive by, meaning that the owner of the solar property does not want you to enter their property for fear of safety and liability issues. These sites are called "drive-by only". Other sites are willing to allow you to stop, look, share and talk to the owner and are called "Visit Site - OK".

If you need a bathroom, please do so before arriving at the site. This is not an open house such as a real-estate broker would do for a sale. The inside of the building is only to be reviewed if solar equipment is to be shown.

There are two different formats of the solar tour on either day:

- 1- Walk or drive by your car to tour sites following schedule
- 2- Bicycle riding to tour sites from start location at start time

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There is a bicycle riding route from the Titusville Welcome Center which follows tour route of the area. This bike format tour route is using one of the bike routes that starts at the Welcome Center to visit each tour site. You can bring your own bike or rent one from the Bicycle shop at the Welcome Center. The Welcome Center will provide a guide at the start of the bike event. Guided Bike tour starts Friday at 3 pm and Saturday at 10 am.

Also, There is a “walk or drive by” format which allows you the participate in the tour freely as you wish by walking or driving your car to the listed sites. Using your personal transportation to and from your home to the event and sites. This format also starts at the Welcome Center or FREA event location on Indian River Ave, then follows the tour route.

What will ASES-FREA supply?

- Website for listing local tour site and chapter information
- Poster for chapter information, event time and place
- Street/road signs for sites
- Solar tour guide with ASES and solar technology information
- Site sign-in sheets for visitor login verification
- Event press release for media
- Solar Tour site address list

What Visitors to the Solar Tour are expected to do?

- Check FREA web Site for latest changes to tour
- Print or download address location list of solar sites in your area
- Print or download Tour Education Information document for general knowledge
- Invite neighbors and friends to join you on the tour
- Help distributing ASES/FREA event Poster and media promoting event
- Honor the site date and time of event, do not come at other times
- Look for Street/road signs in front of home or business
- Sign-in or register at the starting site on Sheets for verification of attendance
- Respect Owner property of the solar home or business site presented
- Only enter site property if you are given permission by the owner
- Only enter site home or business if you are given permission by then owner
- Smile, be friendly, learn all you can and experience a solar life.

