



## Argand and Commercial Solar Systems

According to Ian Street of Argand Energy, "The future looks bright for solar energy in South Carolina, but there are some legislative and tax issues here in South Carolina that make North Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee more favorable for Argand for non-residential projects, and the commercial work can involve very large projects." Just as homeowners get tax credits for installing solar, so do businesses, and those credits can be valuable and the amount of power generated quite impressive. "In North Carolina the business tax credits are up to \$2.5 million for a solar energy project, and in Georgia, \$500,000. In South Carolina, the credit is only \$35,000," according to Street. Argand does work in all of those states and has offices in Charlotte and Columbia.

Perhaps, if legislatively SC was more forward thinking with regard to the financial incentives for sustainable energy, we might see solar panels gracing the rooflines along the Vista, wind towers on office buildings downtown, and rows of solar panels bristling across the roofs of malls and big box stores in Lexington and Irmo. The commercial scale would have a substantially greater impact than residential systems alone. Not only would Argand Energy be busy, but so would many more contractors, plumbers, electricians, roofers, engineers, suppliers and, well, the list goes on. Besides the boost in employment and tax revenues, maybe the Midlands would enjoy the benefits of clean and sustainable energy that helps preserve the natural beauty.

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