## Seoul solar energy for businesses



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[Directions] 110 Sejong-daero, Jung-gu, Seoul

[Domestic] 02-120 or 02-731-2120

[International] +82-2-731-2120

Immigration Contact Center (immigration, visa, stay, etc.)

[Overseas] +82-2-2633-1339, 82-2-2163-5945

## Name

In November 2017, Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) declared its intention to deploy 1 gigawatt of rooftop solar as part of its "Solar City Seoul" master plan. Over the next five years, Seoul city government plans to invest \$1.5 billion to make the project a reality. This is a significant step forward in the future of Seoul"s sustainability contribution and follows in the wake of the very successful first stages of the city"s One Less Nuclear Power Plant (OLNPP) initiative. 1 Under initiatives like the OLNPP, Seoul focused heavily on promoting energy conservation and efficiency improvement. With this new Solar City Seoul plan, the city is ramping up investment in energy production as well. FREE applauds this direction chartered by the Mayor of Seoul, Mr. Park Won-soon.

FREE has been actively advising the city for five years on the prospects of becoming a "solar city." As part of the Seoul International Energy Advisory Council (SIEAC), Dr. John Byrne has described to city officials the potential of rooftop solar across the 10-million people strong city. FREE has also published several refereed articles analyzing the emergent role of the solar city concept coupled with new priorities, such as policy effectiveness, solar financing support, and market mechanisms available to Seoul to explore this potential in detail. 2 For example, research we have conducted shows Seoul has a full deployment potential of about 10 gigawatts. 3

FREE attended the launch of the initiative. Mayor Park Won-soon and Dr. Byrne were interviewed by leading Korean newspapers on the strategy. During an interview with Kyunghyang Shinmun, Mayor Park underscored FREE"s role, noting that he "had an opportunity to take a view of the downtown area in Seoul from Namsan Mountain with Prof. Byrne. As I talked with him, I realized that Seoul has a significant PV technical potential." 4

A striking feature of the Solar City Seoul plan is the commitment to increase household-level PV deployment through miniature solar generators installed on rooftops and verandas or so-called "mini-PV" technology. This



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prong of the plan will engage more than 100,000 households in helping to supply solar energy to the city! This is exactly in tune with the Mayor's original pursuit of the idea that "citizens are energy." The initiative will make solar energy a part of the everyday life of Seoul's citizens and businesses.

"I will make Seoul a place where PV can be found everywhere", the Mayor said. The FREE team will be there to continue to help make this ambition become unavoidable reality.

John Byrne is Director and Distinguished Professor of Energy and Climate Policy, University of Delaware. He is also President of the Foundation for Renewable Energy & Environment (FREE). The Foundation was created in 2011 with a mission of promoting a better future based on energy, water and materials conservation, renewable energy use, environmental resilience, and sustainable livelihoods.

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Web: https://kary.com.pl/contact-us/ Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

