Solar Spotlight: Washington DC

At a glance

- There are currently more than 128 solar companies at work throughout the value chain in Washington DC, employing 1,000 people. These companies provide a wide variety of solar products and services ranging from solar system installations to the manufacturing of components used in photovoltaic (PV) panels. These companies can be broken down across the following categories: 1 manufacturer, 5 contractor/installers, 13 project developers, 1 distributor and 108 engaged in other solar activities including financing, engineering and legal support.

- In 2015, Washington DC installed 7 MW of solar electric capacity, ranking it 31st nationally. Installed solar capacity in Washington DC has grown by 170% over the last year.

- In 2015, $20 million was invested on solar installations in Washington DC. This represents a 132% increase over the previous year, and is expected to grow again this year.

- The 18 MW of solar energy currently installed in Washington DC ranks the state 36th in the country in installed solar capacity. Of this capacity, 11 MW are residential and 7 MW are commercial. There is enough solar energy installed in the state to power 2,800 homes.

- Over the next 5 years, Washington DC is expected to install 131 MW of solar electric capacity, ranking the state 39th over that time span. This amount is more than 9 times the amount of solar installed over the last 5 years.

- Installed solar PV system prices in the U.S. have dropped steadily- by 12% from last year and 66% from 2010.

Notable Projects

- Several large retailers in Washington DC have gone solar. Atlas Brew Works has installed one of the largest corporate photovoltaic systems in the state with 68 kW of solar capacity at their location in Washington, D.C.
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**Source:** SEIA, National Solar Database

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3. This and all other data in this section from SEIA/GTM Research U.S. Solar Market Insight