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FREEDOM SOLAR CITES WORKPLACE SUSTAINABILITY TRENDS FOR UPTICK IN OFFICE SPACE SOLAR INSTALLATIONS

The Austin-Based Company Sees Sales Above Pre-COVID Levels in April and May

AUSTIN, TX (JUNE 30, 2020) - Austin-based Freedom Solar today announced the completion of two substantial solar installations at Austin commercial office spaces. As sustainability in the workplace continues to trend, commercial solar installations are gaining popularity amongst developers with hopes of attracting the sustainably-conscious, millennial workforce. The solar powerhouse has previously completed installations at several Austin flagships such as Whole Foods and Lake Flato Architects.

The larger of the two projects, located in old East Austin at 618 Tillery St., encompassed a 182,716 SF Class A creative office building. More than 1,200 SunPower commercial solar panels were installed on the rooftop array and canopy structure over the building's entryway that will produce more than 578,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) annually. That's enough energy to power more than 47 homes for a full year.

Freedom Solar also installed more than 335 SunPower panels at Davenport 360, located on Capital of Texas Highway in West Austin. This system will produce more than 153,820 kWh of power annually, the equivalent of taking more than 23 cars off the road each year.

"Corporations are finding that their environmentally motivated employees want to work for a company with a strong dedication to sustainability and realize that motivating those employees has a positive trickle-down effect to customers," says Bret Biggart, CEO of Freedom Solar. "Millennial workers are more vocal about their sustainability expectations than any previous generation and view working for a company with a strong commitment to sustainability as a valuable perk."

To illustrate, Biggart pointed to a survey of 1,000 employees of large U.S. companies. Nearly half of all respondents and three-quarters of millennial workers said they would be willing to accept a smaller salary to work for a company that is environmentally responsible. More than 70% said they were more likely to work for a company with a strong environmental agenda and most said they would be more likely to stay with such a company long term. Further, more than a third said they would devote more time and effort to a job because of their employer's strong sustainability program, and upwards of 10% said they would be willing to take a \$5,000-\$10,000 pay cut to work for such a company.

"Millennials will make up 75% of the workforce within six years, and environmental responsibility is an important issue to them—far more so than to Gen X or baby boomers," said Biggart. "Large enterprises that demonstrate a serious commitment to environmental sustainability are realizing an ever-increasing competitive workplace advantage in terms of attracting and retaining the

brightest and best employees. Investing in the workplace will further assist in creating an atmosphere that employees will want to return to after work from home orders come to an end.”

Freedom Solar has been selling above pre-pandemic levels in Q2 and continues to see accelerating demand for solar. Additionally, the company has seen an increased demand in backup power solutions, having sold as many Tesla Powerwall home batteries to date in 2020 as they did in all of 2019.

“We entered 2020 with sights, and goals, set high,” said Biggart. “And despite COVID-19, we continue to exceed projected growth in almost every way, including the addition of several new hires in our marketing, human resources and sales departments. Solar has proven its place in the Texas energy market and we look forward to continuing to play such a vital role in its growth.”

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About Freedom Solar

Freedom Solar is the leader in turnkey solar installations in Texas, providing high-quality, cost-effective, reliable solar solutions for the residential and commercial markets. Also a Tesla Powerwall Certified installer, Freedom Solar has installed more than 68 megawatts of solar panels since 2007 and ranks number 338 on *Inc.* magazine’s 500 fastest-growing private companies in America. The company has been recognized by Austin Energy as the number-one supplier of residential solar systems in Austin, by *GreenTech Media* as the largest residential solar installer in Texas for three years running and by the *Austin Business Journal* as the fourth fastest-growing company in Central Texas. Freedom Solar was named by the *Austin Business Journal* as a Best Place to Work for the second consecutive year in 2020 and was ranked 129th on the 2019 Top Solar Contracts List by *Solar Power World* magazine, up from 220th the previous year. Freedom Solar has completed projects for numerous corporate clients including Whole Foods, Office Depot, Lake Flato Architects, and The University of Texas, among others. For more information, visit www.freedomsolarpower.com.