



**November 16, 2023**

**To: Washington State Solar Energy Industries Association**

**From: Richard McCann, Partner**

**RE: Comparison of Washington installed rooftop solar capacity to Australia, Germany and Selected States**

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Reviewing the amount of solar installed—grid scale and distributed—in a range of states and nations in different situations reveals that Washington falls far below any other place which is actively pursuing policies to reduce climate-changing emissions from electricity generation. Washington is even 80% below the United States average.

Ideally, a region has both high solar irradiance and a strong commitment to solar energy. Australia has an abundance of sunlight and the government has worked to encourage solar. The result is about 20% more solar per capita than Germany and 55% more than the United States. It has about twelve-fold more per capita than Washington.

Global examples exist of solar deployment, grid scale and distributed, being determined by factors other than latitude. The southern German city of Munich is at a similar latitude as Seattle and has [similar solar irradiance](#). However, Germany’s installed solar capacity per capita is 40% higher than in America and nearly ten-times that of Washington. Germany accomplished widespread solar deployment with aggressive policies and incentives.

Several states prove that solar is possible even at northern latitudes. Massachusetts has [less solar irradiance than Washington](#), but the Commonwealth has the [second most distributed solar per capita](#). On the contrary, Florida ([86 watts/cap](#)) is an extremely sunny state with only about 20% of the distributed solar capacity per capita as Massachusetts ([402 watts/cap](#)). Solar is attractive in states like Massachusetts because of strong public policies, high electricity costs, and a commitment to sustainability from the government, utilities, and the public. The table below compares total solar installed across several jurisdictions.

State	MW Installed	Population	Watts Per Capita
Washington	<u>627</u>	<u>7,785,786</u>	81
Florida	<u>12,612</u>	<u>22,244,823</u>	567
Massachusetts	<u>4,294</u>	<u>6,981,974</u>	615
California	<u>41,675</u>	<u>39,029,342</u>	1068
United States	<u>155,200</u>	<u>333,287,557</u>	466
Germany	<u>66,554</u>	<u>84,200,000</u>	790
Australia	<u>26,792</u>	<u>26,500,000</u>	1,011