

# Florida solar company could be headed to Pflugerville, bringing 200 jobs

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A Florida renewable energy company could soon be moving to Pflugerville, potentially bringing at least 200 jobs to town by 2014.

Pending approval of an incentive deal from the Pflugerville City Council on Tuesday, Complete Energy Systems Inc. would be the first tenant of a new industrial park off the Texas 130 toll road. The company would eventually move from temporary space to a 120,000-square-foot facility at Pecan Street and Texas 130.

"We're very excited about it," said Floyd Akers, executive director of the Pflugerville Community Development Corp., a taxpayer-funded organization created by voters in 2003 to lure business to the city.

In a separate incentive agreement with the Pflugerville Community Development Corp., the company agreed to hire at least 100 full-time employees by 2013 and at least 200 by 2014, with an average wage of \$50,000 and medical benefits.

Company CEO Harvey Katz said his Boca Raton-based company, with eight employees, has been looking for a couple of years to relocate, saying that Florida's solar rebates to homeowners have dried up.

"Florida is not a very good business environment these days for environmental products," he said.

Katz said the company also looked at the New Orleans area but went with Central Texas because the "quality of workers seemed to be better and more highly educated in the Austin area than in Louisiana," he said. "And it's a more stable market."

The company has two divisions: Atlantic Solar, which will manufacture solar panels, and Green World Systems, which creates "mobile renewable power stations" that are powered by wind turbines and solar panels.

The company would be receiving a variety of incentives to move to Texas.

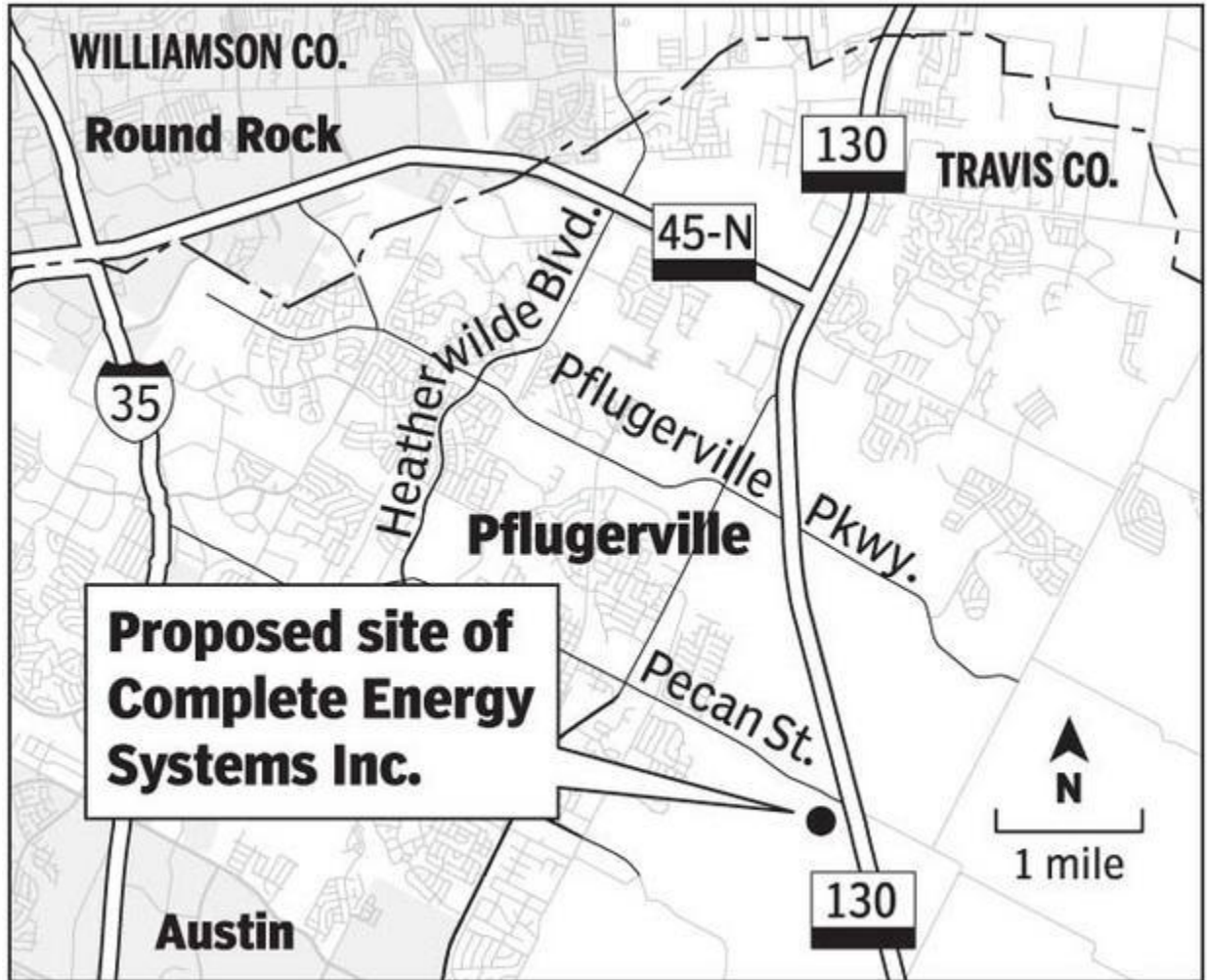
If the deal with the City of Pflugerville is approved next week, Complete Energy Systems will receive a 50 percent property tax rebate from the city for five years, up to \$375,000.

In addition, the economic development corporation has agreed to pay the company \$3,000 per job created, up to \$750,000, as well as \$75,000 in moving expenses.

The company is also receiving \$1,400 per employee from the state's Skills Development Fund, Akers said.

Pending council approval, Complete Energy Systems would move to Pflugerville in the next 60 days into a temporary location off Royston Lane, while the new building is being constructed, Akers said.

The new building should be finished in May , he said.



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Courtesy of JB Goodwin