



Solar4Us @ Henderson Hopkins

A Community Solar Project for Low-Income Households in East Baltimore

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@ Henderson Hopkins

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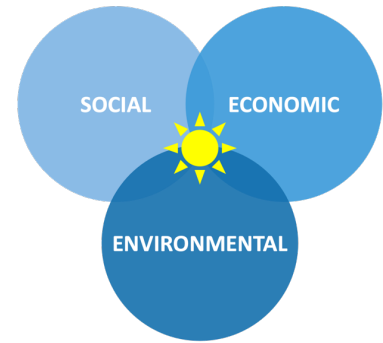
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The Climate Access Fund is developing **Solar4Us @ Henderson Hopkins**, a first-of-its-kind community solar project in Maryland. The project, which will be located on the rooftop of the Henderson Hopkins School, aims to

- Allocate 100% of generated solar energy to an estimated 175 low-income households at a targeted discount of 25% to the utility rate;
- Provide local residents with an opportunity to share in project ownership;
- Offer paid apprenticeship and contractor opportunities to local residents and firms; and
- Support the launch of a clean energy club for students at Henderson Hopkins.



Reducing Energy Burden Through Community Solar

Energy burden is the percentage of gross household income spent on energy costs. The energy burden of low-income households in Maryland is more than 6x higher than that of non-low-income households, and ranges from 4x to 21x, according to the Maryland Office of People’s Counsel.

According to the US Department of Energy, low-income households across the US represented just 15% of solar PV adoptions between 2010 and 2018, in part because 59% of low-income households are renters and cannot install solar on their rooftops. Community solar allows low- to moderate-income (“LMI”) and disadvantaged households to reduce both their energy burden and their carbon footprint.

Project Mission

The purpose of the Solar4Us @ Henderson Hopkins Project is to establish a new model of community solar energy generation, in which the economic, environmental, and social benefits are maximized to the Henderson Hopkins community and surrounding neighborhoods. The Climate Access Fund plans to work with solar developers and financiers to accelerate the flow of philanthropic, conventional banking, and private investment capital into smaller, urban community solar projects specifically tailored to benefit LMI communities across Baltimore and Maryland. Increased development of these types of projects will help lower-wealth, overburdened communities participate more fully in the clean energy economy.

Project Status

The Climate Access Fund is finalizing financing for the project and anticipates starting construction in mid - 2023, with savings being realized by participating households in late 2023.

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