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Solar Panels at Georgetown University Spur Neighborhood Equity
Sharing the Benefits of Solar in the District

Columbus, OH., April 24th, 2017– Community Renewable Energy and Root + Branch, are initiating the first project of the Neighborhood Solar Equity program with Georgetown University in Washington, DC. The team is set to install 1.1 mW on Georgetown’s campus—one of the largest on-site solar arrays in the District of Columbia. Through an innovative project model the system will produce renewable energy for the University and amplify the benefits of solar for the District and its residents.

Columbus based Community Renewable Energy, and D.C. based Root + Branch created a model that will both serve the energy needs of the University and also ensure the surrounding neighborhoods benefit from the renewable energy. As such, profits from the system have been dedicated by the partners toward reinvestment in D.C. neighborhoods, including through a “Community Investment Fund” which, in collaboration with Georgetown University, will support clean energy projects in low-income areas of the District.

“We are combining cutting edge solar technology with an efficient capital structure to achieve solutions that are both economically profitable and socially just,” stated Joe Recchie, Founder of Community Renewable Energy.

The project is expected to generate about 1.5 million kilowatt-hours of power each year, contributing to a cleaner electric grid and offsetting an estimated 25,506 US tons of CO2 in its lifetime—an equivalent of planting 593,300 trees in D.C. Installed at no cost to the University, the project is expected to save Georgetown more than \$3 million in energy costs over 20 years. Furthermore, it’s anticipated to catalyze more than \$1.5 million in additional local community investment.

Robin Morey, Vice President for Planning and Facilities Management at Georgetown University says, “This is a win-win for both the University and the city and is in keeping with Georgetown’s commitment to the [common good.](#)”

[Community Renewable Energy](#) is an Ohio based community-centered solar developer working to increase access to renewable energy in communities. [Root + Branch](#) is a D.C.-based community-development public benefit corporation that connects and empowers communities through projects that create a shared value for neighbors. Together, they harness private sector resources and align them to public sector priorities to create equity for our neighbors.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Laura Recchie at rootandbranchinc@gmail.com.