



For immediate release

GRID Alternatives Completes Largest Solar Deployment for Affordable Homes
Partnership between Palm Desert, Non-profit and HOA brings solar power to 84 families in the Desert Rose community

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Palm Desert, CA; May 20, 2014 – City officials, homeowners and other partners and dignitaries joined GRID Alternatives, the nation’s largest non-profit solar installer, to celebrate the installation of solar electric systems on 84 homes in a single affordable housing community. The project, in Palm Desert’s Desert Rose community, represents the largest ever solar deployment through California’s Single-Family Affordable Solar Homes program (SASH), which GRID Alternatives manages on behalf of the CPUC.

“This is a great success for the community, for GRID Alternatives and the SASH program,” said SASH Program Director Cathleen Monahan. “California is leading the nation in bringing solar to communities that can most benefit from the savings and job opportunities it provides.”

The systems, totalling 246kW, will save families up to 90% on their electrical bills, or an estimated \$2 million over their anticipated 30-year lifetimes. The power they generate will also contribute to cleaner air in a region that has among the state’s highest air pollution levels, offsetting the carbon equivalent to removing 1,150 cars from the road for one year.

Homeowner Pearl Verre, a retired senior who volunteers at Lincoln Elementary school, says the savings will help her stay in her home longer. “My gosh, it’s like having my own ATM machine,” she said. “My last bill was 53 cents!”

The systems were installed by GRID Alternatives Subcontracting Partner RGS Energy, which provided a paid position to a solar job training program graduate for each project.

“This project has been an amazing partnership from start to finish, with everyone from the city, to the homeowners association, the roofer and the subcontractor pitching in to make solar a reality for all these families, while giving new installers a jump start on their careers,” said Bambi Tran, Regional Director for GRID Alternatives’ Inland Empire office.

About GRID Alternatives

GRID Alternatives is a non-profit organization that makes renewable energy technology and job training accessible to low-income communities. We bring together community partners, volunteers and job trainees to implement solar power and energy efficiency for low-income families, providing energy cost savings, valuable hands-on experience, and a source of clean, local energy that benefits us all. Nearly 4300 families have benefited from our work to date, saving \$107 million in lifetime electricity costs, and over 16,000 people have received solar training. GRID Alternatives has offices throughout California, in Denver, CO, and in New York, serving the tri-state region. For more information, visit www.gridalternatives.org. For more information, visit www.gridalternatives.org.