



*** MEDIA ADVISORY ***

NONPROFITS JOIN FORCES TO UPLIFT MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES THROUGH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BY INSTALLING SOLAR

WHAT: GRID Mid-Atlantic is joining forces with the Coalition for Nonprofit Housing & Economic Development's (CNHED) Community Development Week and Solar United Neighbors to showcase the benefits of going solar at Preola Lee's house, a GRID Mid-Atlantic client who has solar power providing energy in her home. The GRID Mid-Atlantic team will provide a rundown of how solar works and describe their NO-COST solar program for income-qualified D.C. residents. Leaders of GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic, Solar United Neighbors, and CNHED will discuss their work in serving marginalized communities through clean energy and economic development.

"Ms. Lee is the perfect example of a homeowner who has seen the tangible benefits of going solar," said Nicole Steele, Executive Director of GRID Mid-Atlantic. "As a retired lifelong District resident on a limited income, these savings are crucial to her quality of life and help her stay in her home. Based on her PEPCO bill prior to installing the PV system, it's estimated she's saving about 75% on her electricity bill."

"Speaking with a solar homeowner is the best way to learn if going solar is right for you," said Yesenia Rivera of Solar United Neighbors. "Even if you're just a little bit curious about solar energy, I encourage you to attend an open house. You'll be glad you did."

WHO: The following individuals will be available for interview:

- Nicole Steele, Executive Director, GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic
- Yesenia Rivera, D.C. Program Director, Solar United Neighbors
- Steve Glaude, President & CEO, CNHED
- Preola Lee, homeowner hosting the solar showcase

WHERE: Preola Lee's home (GRID Mid-Atlantic client), 1142 1st St NW, Washington, DC

WHEN: Wednesday, October 9, 5:30-7:30 pm

WHY: Climate change, along with energy and housing costs, affects low-income communities and communities of color the most. This is an opportunity to see a solar panel system on a D.C. resident's home and inquire about how to get no-cost solar through GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic.

The solar panel system installed in Preola Lee's house has a capacity of 2.9 kilowatts and a lifespan of 25 years. This project contributes to making the District cleaner by reducing 64 tons of carbon emissions, the equivalent of taking 12 cars off the road for one year or planting 1,488 trees. Ms. Lee is expected to save over \$15,400 over the life of the system.

Ms. Lee's panels were installed as part of Solar for All, a program of the District of Columbia's Department of Energy and Environment that seeks to provide the benefits of solar electricity to 100,000 low-income households and reduce their energy bills by 50% by 2032. The program, which was established by the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) Expansion Amendment Act of 2016, is funded by the Renewable Energy Development Fund (REDF). For more information about Solar for All visit: <http://doee.dc.gov/solarforall>.

Links: [Preola Lee's Installation Photos](#)

Contact:

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- Solar United Neighbors: Ben Delman, 202-888-3602, ben@solarunitedneighbors.org
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About GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic: GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic is an affiliate of GRID Alternatives, a national leader in making clean, affordable solar power and solar jobs accessible to low-income communities and communities of color. Using a unique, people-first model, GRID Mid-Atlantic develops and implements solar projects that serve qualifying households and affordable housing providers, while providing hands-on job training. GRID Mid-Atlantic has installed solar for more than 283 families to-date and helped households and housing providers save \$8 million in lifetime electricity costs while training over 884 people. For more information, visit www.gridalternatives.org/midatlantic

About Solar United Neighbors: is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that helps people go solar, join together, and fight for their energy rights. We are an organization dedicated to representing the needs and interests of solar homeowners and supporters. Together we are building a modern, clean energy system with rooftop solar as the cornerstone.

About CNHED: The Coalition for Nonprofit Housing & Economic Development (CNHED) fosters just and equitable community development solutions that address the needs and aspirations of low- and moderate-income District residents by convening, advocating, and educating diverse stakeholders. More information about CNHED and its programs is available at www.cnhed.org. You can also follow CNHED on Twitter [@cnhed](https://twitter.com/cnhed), on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cnhed.

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