



GRID Alternatives Launches Multifamily Affordable Solar Program in Connecticut

Collaboration with Connecticut Green Bank will open up solar, reduce energy costs for hundreds of multifamily buildings serving low-income families

BRONX, NY; April 27, 2017 – [GRID Alternatives](#), America's largest nonprofit solar installer, today announced expansion of its multifamily affordable solar program into the Connecticut market. The program helps affordable housing owners and operators reduce energy costs with solar, providing no-cost technical assistance, as well as turnkey solar design and installation services.

The expansion was announced today at a live solar installation on the 57-unit Fair Street Apartments in Norwalk. The project, financed by the Connecticut Green Bank, is one of the first of its kind in the state. It also includes energy efficiency education for residents and hands-on solar workforce training for local job trainees and community college students.

Fair Street Apartments is part of a portfolio that GRID evaluated under its technical assistance program, which is provided at no cost through a grant from The JPB Foundation. Nearly 300 multifamily affordable housing buildings in the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority's State-Sponsored Housing Portfolio have been evaluated for their solar potential.

The Connecticut Green Bank, which aims to accelerate investment in clean energy deployment in the state, will review the properties deemed suitable for solar and provide interested properties with financing for installation by GRID Alternatives or another qualified solar installer. The offering will expand solar deployment on Connecticut's multifamily affordable housing stock, lowering operating costs while helping the state meet its goal of 27 percent renewable energy by 2020.

"Solar can make a huge financial difference for affordable housing owners, saving them money that can be applied to building upkeep and tenant services, and directly reducing rents in some cases," said Peter Mandelstam, Executive Director of GRID Alternatives Tri-State, which serves New York, New Jersey and now Connecticut. "We are excited to partner with Connecticut in opening up solar access for this market."

"By reducing the energy burden on multifamily affordable properties, we are ensuring inclusive prosperity in Connecticut's clean energy economy," said Bryan Garcia, President and CEO of the Connecticut Green Bank. "This partnership with GRID Alternatives not only helps put solar on suitable buildings, but offers local job training putting people to work. It's a win-win."

GRID's ongoing national expansion efforts are supported by a grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation. The Fair Street installation is additionally sponsored by NRG Energy, Ardsley Partners, and GRID Alternatives' national equipment partners: SunPower, Enphase Energy, Jinko Solar, IronRidge, and Schneider Electric.

Multifamily housing owners and developers interested in learning more about GRID's no-cost technical assistance and solar offerings can visit www.gridalternatives.org/multifamily.

Event photos will be available after 3pm ET, at <https://gridalternativescloud.egnyte.com/fl/1r6H3pe0U2>

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ABOUT GRID ALTERNATIVES TRI-STATE

GRID Alternatives is America's largest nonprofit solar installer, bringing clean energy technology and job training to underserved communities through a network of community partners and philanthropic supporters. GRID has installed more than 8,200 solar electric systems for low-income families and affordable housing providers with a combined installed capacity of 30 megawatts, saving more than \$240 million in lifetime electricity costs, preventing more than 660,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions, and providing more than 31,000 people with solar training. GRID Alternatives Tri-State opened in 2014 to serve New York, New Jersey, and now Connecticut. For more information, visit www.gridalternatives.org

ABOUT CONNECTICUT GREEN BANK

The Connecticut Green Bank was established by the Connecticut General Assembly on July 1, 2011 as a part of Public Act 11-80. As the nation's first full-scale green bank, it is leading the clean energy finance movement by leveraging public and private funds to scale-up renewable energy deployment and energy efficiency projects across Connecticut. The Green Bank's success in accelerating private investment in clean energy is helping Connecticut create jobs, increase economic prosperity, promote energy security and address climate change. For more information about the Connecticut Green Bank, please visit www.ctgreenbank.com.