



Solar Energy for LMI Homeowners

Contact

Julie Williams, Seeds for the Sol, juliewawilliams@gmail.com – (541) 207-2219, www.seedsforthesol.org

Description

In partnership with Energy Trust of Oregon, we are helping 20 low-income homeowners fund 3 KW solar energy for their homes both Corvallis and Albany. Energy equity is difficult to achieve and both ETO and SFTS are committed to innovative funding structures to improve access.

We have created an incredible funding package for 2019 low income clients and excited to provide another 60KW of solar energy to our community members most in need.

The program is low cost and will have a positive impact on monthly budgets for all participants. There is no money down and only \$1000 out of pocket costs taken from energy savings.

Timeframe

Our initial Grant to study LMI populations and to create a working funding model ran from March 2019 to June 2019. Upon the completion of our study, we were asked to implement our program with grant from ETO, for 20 homes with completion by Dec. 31, 2019.

Funding

We have most of our funding. We need to engage our Sun Buddy zero interest wealth-sharing loans again in order to acquire the \$20,000 needed. The funds for an extended Warranty for inverters will cost \$4,000-\$6,000 total for 20 homes. This purchase is important because the LMI population is less likely to have funds to replace their inverter in the typical timeframe of 15 years. We are extending their warranty on inverter to match the warranty life of the panels. We have \$2,500 for this and working to attain more donations.

Equity and Accessibility

So far, all of our clients have a gross income ranging from \$50,000 for a family of 4 to \$12,000 for single occupant. The majority of our clients are Hispanic or are on disability. All Pacific Power consumers pay a small fee to the ETO program. Low income homes often have poor efficiency and so commonly pay higher rates, thus higher fee, yet most are not able to afford and utilize the standard ETO benefits or tax incentives because their income is too low. For this project, 100% of our clients will be low income.

Approvals

All approvals have been obtained. The installer must apply thru regular channels by October 5, 2019 to receive the added ETO Grant. The communication between installer and ETO is initiated.

Date Accepted: 11/12/2019

Objectives

ES2: Community Affordability
ES7: Core Community Values
SS2: Population Change & Migration
SS3: Community Resiliency
SS6: Renewable Energy
LT6: Access to Healthy Lifestyle
IP1: Family and Living Wage Jobs

IP2: Nurturing Small-to-Medium Sized Business
IP5: Vibrant Downtown with Employment, Retail, and Housing
IP7: Global Economic Impact and Local Benefits
PC3: Diverse and Affordable Housing
PC4: Stable, Healthy Neighborhood

Partners

Energy Trust of Oregon will provide a grant for this project covering 48% of the costs. Oregon Clean Power Cooperative has provided consulting for this project. Seeds for the Sol Offset program is providing an extended warranty for each inverter. Seeds for the Sol zero interest loan program is providing \$20,000 in zero interest loans. Albany Habitat for Humanity is providing accounting and loan collection.

Climate Action Sections

Buildings and Energy
Health, Social Services and Community Well-Being

Type

Mitigation

What direct impact will your project have on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and/or preparing community members to adapt to the impacts of climate change (drought, wildfires, flooding, etc.)?

The 60 kW installed will result in 69,000 kWh of energy and 103,500 pounds of CO₂ mitigated per year. That is over 2.5 million-pound CO₂e over 25 years. It provides resilience in the community in emergency. Families report they realize a more stable food security when they reap the energy savings from their solar.

Does your project have any co-benefits?

We will use local installers to support the local economy. Of course, we will improve energy efficiency as recorded above. We will decrease fossil fuel dependency, improve economics for 20 families (10 in Corvallis, 10 in Albany). Our clients are on disability, LMI, or both.

What type of help, if any, do you need from the members of the Climate Action Advisory Board?

Contacts with City staff

Suggested partners

Other: This type of program could be supported by the City of Corvallis with a revolving loan system that identifies LMI clients and supports their renewable energy and energy efficiency purchases. Seeds for the Sol could administer the program and report with the City if the City of Corvallis would dedicate funds to Seeds for the Sol. This is win-win for the entire community and takes us closer to becoming a fossil free community, in fairness and in equity

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