

Smithers Gateway Center Community Resilience Microgrid

Competitor

Invest Appalachia
1456 Patton Ave Ste C
Asheville, NC 28806-1760
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Location of primary benefits

Smithers, West Virginia 25186-0489

Short description

The Smithers Gateway Center Community Resilience Microgrid Project brings together a regional team of experts specializing in solar finance, technology, design, and community engagement to support the City of Smithers, West Virginia, in planning and developing a solar + storage-powered microgrid at a municipally owned and operated community center. The Smithers Gateway Center hosts a range of critical community facilities including medical clinics, a pharmacy, a childcare center, commercial kitchens, local first responder communications equipment, and municipal offices and court. A solar + storage-powered microgrid at this site will ensure that community members have uninterrupted access to these lifesaving resources during extended power grid outages due to natural disasters or other emergencies. This project will also result in long-term energy cost savings for the City of Smithers and Gateway Center tenants while reducing greenhouse gas emissions, creating new local clean energy jobs, and forging a replicable model for increased community resilience and just energy transition in rural coal-impacted communities. The project team will work closely with City officials and local stakeholders to develop a technical project scope and determine suitable financing options during Phase 2, leading directly to construction of this innovative and impactful community microgrid project.

Link to online video pitch

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xsC7pVpbS354v5jucBBOC6c3fJ39_mCx/view?usp=sharing

Project Team Members

Autumn Long, *Director, Appalachian Solar Finance Fund*
Andrew Crosson, *CEO, Invest Appalachia*
Adam Wells, *Regional Director of Community and Economic Development, Appalachian Voices*
Dr. Anne Cavalier, *Mayor, City of Smithers, West Virginia*
Pranay Kohli, *CEO, Amidus Resilience, LLC*
Corey Ramsden, *Vice President of Go Solar Programs, Solar United Neighbors*
Leah Barbor, *West Virginia State Director, Solar United Neighbors*