



Energizing Rural Communities Prize Finance Track Proposal Cover Sheet

- **Title:** Community Ownership of Rural Clean Energy Projects
- **Competitor Name:** Groundswell
 - **Address:** 80 M St. SE, Washington, DC 20003
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 - **Email:** info@groundswell.org
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- **Location of Primary Benefits:** Rural Will County, IL (zip codes: 60411, 60417, 60449, 60466, 60475, 60484)

Proposed Plan

Groundswell is a 501c3 nonprofit that builds community power through equitable community solar projects and resilience centers, clean energy programs that reduce energy burdens, and pioneering research initiatives that help light the way to clean energy futures for all. Throughout the course of the current year, we will develop, demonstrate, and disseminate a financial model that will leverage recent changes enacted by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) that created a “direct pay” option for solar tax credits to deliver community ownership of solar projects to local nonprofits and community-based institutions.

Support from the Energizing Rural Communities Prize will ensure that Groundswell has the capacity to apply the model to the development of a community resilience hub in Will County, IL, which will serve as our first community-owned rural project. Learning from Will County will be applied to the development of additional rural resilience hubs in Maryland as part of a statewide implementation effort, with the potential for additional replication in rural Georgia as well.

Video Pitch Link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lr1gNiaH9bU>

Key Groundswell Staff

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Project Partners

- Trenton Allen, Sustainable Capital Advisors