

Competitor Name & Title:

Sharing Power: Solar4Us @ Mountain Maryland

Watch our video pitch here: bit.ly/solar4us-mm



Organization: Climate Access Fund Corporation (21210-2206) // www.climateaccessfund.org

Lynn Heller (lynn@climateaccessfund.org), Chief Executive Officer

Location of Primary Benefits

- **Community Solar Site Location:** Frostburg, Allegany County, MD, 21532-2303
- **Beneficiaries of Project:** Allegany, Garrett, and Washington Counties in Western MD.
 - Allegany County is the first county where enrollment efforts will be focused.
 - Three prioritized beneficiaries in Allegany County (designated as disadvantaged and/or distressed by USDA's Rural Development Innovation Center) are Lonaconing (21539-0001), Midlothian (21543-0001), and Mount Savage (21545-0001).
 - Other eligible zip codes in Allegany are 21532, 21562, 21539, 21524, 21555, 21545, 21530, 21557, 21521, 21560, 21529, 21766, 21543, 21540, 21505, 21504, 21528, 21542, 21556.

Short Description

Solar4Us @ Mountain Maryland is a cross-sector partnership effort working to develop “community solar” projects that financially, economically, and educationally benefit low-income households. Community solar projects will be developed exclusively for low-income households and will provide ~\$200/year in savings to enrolled households over the 35 year lifespan of the solar installation. Incentives for lower energy usage and regular bill pay will augment households’ financial benefit, while clean energy apprenticeships, career-track jobs, and education opportunities holistically support the economic development of this region.

This partnership’s efforts are focused on three counties in rural Western Maryland: Allegany, Garrett, and Washington. Solar 4US: Mountain Maryland seeks to focus its first site in Allegany County, which of the three counties is the most “distressed energy community” and has the highest poverty rate. Prize money would accelerate the development process and catalyze the capital raise required to enter the construction phase of a community solar site by the end of Phase II. In partnership with the City of Frostburg and solar developer Optimize Renewables, we have identified a site location in the City of Frostburg and are poised to launch the predevelopment phase of the project, engineering, permitting, interconnection, and capital raising. The Frostburg site will benefit ~70 families from historically disinvested rural communities.

Solar4Us @ Mountain Maryland Partner Organizations

<p>Climate Access Fund Nonprofit green bank and developer of community solar efforts benefiting historically disinvested communities. Role: Project developer, project manager, capital raiser, and lead applicant.</p>	<p>Maryland Mountain Movement Grassroots advocates for clean energy and a reduction of health harms from polluting energy sources. Role: Site identification and community outreach across three Western MD counties.</p>	<p>City of Frostburg Governmental entity that oversees all activities relating to planning and zoning, rental housing, and code enforcement. Role: Outreach, education and marketing in Allegany County.</p>
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