

Coal to Solar in Carrier Mills Energizing Rural Communities Prize Partner Track

Tracy Felty, Mayor
Village of Carrier Mills
101 N Mill Street
Carrier Mills, IL 62917
villageofcarriermills@gmail.com

The primary benefits will flow to the Village of Carrier Mills in Saline County, Illinois (zip code: 62917 and population 1,672) and to the other independent local units of government and taxing districts including, Carrier Mills-Stonefort Community School District, Carrier Mills Park District, Carrier Mills Township, and the Carrier Mills Stonefort Public Library District.

Our mission is to bring solar and energy efficiency to the Carrier Mills community to reduce energy costs and build community resilience. Our community clean energy partnership has a goal to advance energy efficiency and solar projects on public buildings by unlocking economies of scale. The team will build community support, conduct energy audits and solar feasibility studies, and develop an intergovernmental agreement to advance projects together. The long-term clean energy projects include energy efficiency and solar projects on buildings owned by units of local government and taxing districts. We will use funds to conduct the assessments and studies, receive other legal, permitting, or financial support, convene team meetings, conduct community outreach, and begin the implementation of projects. We plan to document best practices and lessons learned and conduct outreach to advance similar community driven efforts in other Saline County and rural communities.

Link to the 3-minute, online video pitch: <https://tinyurl.com/Carrier-Mills-ERC-Prize>

Project members:

Tracy Felty, Mayor, Village of Carrier Mills, Mayor Felty has served on the City Council for ten years and has been Mayor for two.

Brad Housewright, Economic Developer, Saline County Industrial Development Company, Brad brings knowledge and relationships with the surrounding Saline County communities. He has economic development experience, including in renewable energy projects.

Amanda Pankau, Senior Energy Campaign Coordinator, Prairie Rivers Network, apankau@prairierivers.org. PRN is an environmental nonprofit with a mission to protect water, heal land, and inspire change. Amanda has worked on coal and energy issues in downstate Illinois for over 15 years.

Bryce Jerrell, Superintendent, Carrier Mills-Stonefort Community Unit School District #2

Ryan Beck, Park Commissioner, Carrier Mills Park District

Other partners that will be part of this effort include the Carrier Mills-Stonefort Public Library District, the Carrier Mills Township, and the University of Illinois' Smart Energy Design and Assistance Center.