

Community Power Accelerator Prize

Team Name:

GDI Motor City to Solar City

City and State: Detroit, MI

Submission Title: Motor City to Solar City

Organization Overview

- The Green Door Initiative (GDI) works to revitalize, rebuild, and restore neighborhoods, predominantly in low-income, underserved areas with high percentages of black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC). Through this work, GDI aims to promote environmental and economic justice, empowering residents – including justice-involved individuals – to lead healthy and sustainable lives and participate in the green economy.

Project Overview

- GDI envisions two pivotal projects as part of the Community Power Accelerator prize, each with a distinct and vital role in leveraging our existing work. Our dedicated team in the Motor City to Solar City™ initiative will also spearhead the Community Power Accelerator. The first project will support Phase II of our ongoing work by securing a 65,000-square-foot school building for a dynamic ½ megawatt (MW) solar energy hub. This hub will serve as a center for clean energy generation, workforce training, and community engagement while reducing energy costs for neighboring properties. The second project involves continuing our ongoing collaboration with the city of Detroit's Office of Sustainability, extending ½ MW of solar in a neighborhood servicing 82 homes.

Meaningful Benefits

- All Five Meaningful Benefits align perfectly with GDI's strategic vision. The pillars of GDI's core mission, vision, and values are to serve environmental justice and LMI households, facilitate economic empowerment through workforce development, training, and programs supporting entrepreneurship, and expand job opportunities for local residents while promoting local hiring. Environmental and climate literacy and community resilience have been critical aspects of most of our work for over ten years. Projects to reduce energy insecurity and lower utility bills while providing community solar are a natural progression and a great way to expand our reach and impact.



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