

Community Power Accelerator Prize

Team Name: GRID Alternatives Greater Los Angeles

City and State: Los Angeles, CA

Submission Title: Nonprofit led Community Solar in Los Angeles



**Community
Power
Accelerator**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



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Organization Overview

GRID Alternatives Greater Los Angeles (GLA) is a nonprofit organization that provides no-cost solar systems to low-income homeowners and solar job training and placement for underrepresented community members. Our mission is to empower communities in need by providing access to green technology and energy efficiency services, equipment, and training, while reducing carbon emissions in frontline communities. Since 2007, GLA has installed over 3,000 solar electric systems for low-income households, provided hands-on training to nearly 5,000 volunteers, students, and job trainees, and placed over 700 individuals in fast-growing jobs in the solar and renewable energy industry. In 2022 we installed over 500kW of solar and provided solar workforce training to over 50 trainees.

Project Overview

The proposed solar project will install 1MW of community solar on the roofs of local nonprofits in the City of Los Angeles. GLA's primary partner in this community solar project will be Goodwill of Southern California (Goodwill SoCal). GLA will construct community solar systems on Goodwill SoCal's portfolio of owned and long-term leased properties throughout the City of LA. The proposed projects will reach over 300 low to middle income households. The Community Power Accelerator Prize presents a great opportunity for GLA to design an innovative community solar program that leverages existing utility offerings and increases renewable energy options for those that do not have direct access to household level solar arrays by creating community solar systems.

Meaningful Benefits

As a registered nonprofit, GLA's mission driven approach to its renewable energy program includes all of the Prize's meaningful benefits and is at the core of GLA's identity as a nonprofit solar installer. In fact, we implement multiple state of California's incentive programs, due to our expertise in engaging with, educating and serving socially and economically disadvantaged individuals (SEDIs). This is just one example of how GLA serves as a leader in ensuring an equitable transition to renewable energy.