

Unity: Creating Equitable Access to Solar

Community Accelerator Prize Round 2 | Rochester, NY

Unity Renewables (Unity) is a new solar developer in Rochester, New York that originates community solar projects to be deployed with an equitable workforce and customer subscription.

Unity plans to act as the interface for its community to access community solar, particularly for LMI households, in the short term and continue to grow to be able to build projects in house with local workforce.

Currently a participant in the Department of Energy sponsored Energy Storage for Social Equity (ES4SE) program, Unity supports the workforce development and equity components of a solar plus storage and EV charging system at the Open Door Mission

- The project comprises 2.05 MWh lithium-ion battery, >50 kW PV (rooftop and carport) for resilience of critical community infrastructure including a commercial kitchen and women's emergency shelter services
- It showcases the potential of community partnerships to harness renewable energy, particularly with the current Investment Tax Credits (ITC) for renewable energy projects and bonuses for low-income communities.

Planned portfolio of approx. 2 MW, half of which in Justice40 areas in Rochester with most of the subscription for LMI households

Unity is directly engaging community groups to develop projects that create LMI Household Access, Community Ownership, Equitable Workforce Development, and Resilience and Grid Benefits.