

# Motor City to Solar City

## Team Experience

Green Door Initiative's (GDI) mission is to ensure that residents in the areas we serve are environmentally literate, empowered and equipped to live healthy, sustainable lives regardless of race, income or zip code. GDI's vision is to facilitate the revitalization, rebuilding, and restoration of neighborhoods, particularly in low-income, people of color, and underserved areas. We aim to achieve environmental and economic justice and equip people to fully participate in the green economy.

With over 200 projects nationwide, including 30 in Detroit, our team possesses a wealth of experience and insight into community-driven initiatives. We have honed our approach through extensive work in disadvantaged neighborhoods, informed by our involvement on national, regional and local environmental justice advisory boards, and local workforce development projects targeting justice-involved citizens.

## Energy-related Challenge

All of GDI's work focuses on Justice40 Environmental Justice neighborhoods within Detroit. Our project targets the Russell and State Fair neighborhoods in the 48203 zip code, which reflect the city's demographic diversity, with significant African American and Hispanic populations. Over 40% of households in Detroit live below the poverty line and many face numerous energy challenges, highlighting the socioeconomic and energy challenges faced by these communities. 30% of all households in Detroit (~518,698 residents) experience a "high energy burden," while 16% of households (~269,687 residents) grapple with a "severe energy burden." (ACEEE 2020).

The cost of electricity further compounds the challenges faced by Detroit residents. In September 2023, Detroit households paid 20.4 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh), marking a 19.3% increase compared to the nationwide average of 17.1 cents per kWh. Over the past five years, electricity prices in the Detroit area have ranged from 31.4% to 12.6% higher than the national average (BLS 2023).

Partners: Green Door Initiative, APEX, Walker-Miller Energy Service and City of Detroit Office of Sustainability

