



A MICROGRID IN WEST BALTIMORE

The Freddie Gray riots of 2015 brought the structural inequities and stark reality of hypersegregation of Baltimore to the national and international spotlight. Today, we are revitalizing a neighborhood block near where Freddie Gray lived in West Baltimore, into a beacon of economic vitality and clean energy.

In collaboration with the Union Square community of West Baltimore, we spent years seeking financing and technical assistance touring clean energy in our community. We realized that many of the existing programs that allocate funding for retrofitting and clean energy initiatives often prove unsuitable for addressing the unique challenges posed by vacant housing and infill projects. For examples, most funding applications required an energy audits on existing energy consuming equipments in order to prove that there will be savings (yet we rehabilitating vacant properties where there is no equipment). This discrepancy essentially leaves out the very communities that are most in need of these vital resources.

Last year, we launched a bold initiative to leapfrog many of those limitations by building our own microgrid. Yet we encountered another opposition: experts informed that a microgrid is not appropriate for inner city scattered site with public right of way. Nonetheless we received the support of the Maryland Energy administration (MEA) to explore the feasibility of our vision for a microgrid. If implemented, it will be the very first microgrid in an inner city, powering scatter sites, in the State of Maryland.

This is a significant leap forward to equity and equitable transition to clean energy for West Baltimore

Due to a history of marginalization and disinvestment, people of color, immigrants, refugees, and lower-income populations experience increased exposure and sensitivity to climate hazards and a reduced capacity to adapt.

The microgrid is intended to shift power to communities and residents. It will:

- Significantly Reduce the energy cost burden of our residents, making our units event more affordable: affordable, clean energy
- Enhance resiliency of W Baltimore St
- Improve the the operation and stability of the artists galleries and studios
- Will provide refuge to surrounding communities in event of power outages
- Improve the business district with technology such as EV charging stations
- Promote neighborhood revitalization that is energy efficient and climate resilient.
- Provide EV Charging facilities for our residents and for people on W Baltimore St
- This innovative technology will not only power the revitalized 1400 block of W Baltimore St but also extend its positive impact, symbolizing a leap towards energy efficiency and resilience.

This project will create a beacon of equitable transition to clean energy and a testament to what is possible when public and private sectors collaborate for the greater good.

Planning Committee

We have established a planning committee in July 2023 that meets monthly. The committee is made of community leaders, homeowners, and leaders of civil society.