

Solar Prize Round 8

Team Name:	Olympia Community Solar
City and State:	Olympia, Washington
Submission Title:	Low-Income Solar Development in Washington State



Organization Overview

Olympia Community Solar is a nonprofit with the mission of stewarding an equitable and accessible clean energy transition. We work with municipalities and organizations serving disadvantaged communities to fund, develop, and engage with the community about clean energy projects. We use solar education and policy advocacy to promote accessibility across Washington State.

Project Overview

Our team delivers a suite of services to expand solar access in low-income communities across Washington State and assist with grant writing, project management, financing, and community education to overcome barriers to solar adoption. Our team provides education, secures funding, manages projects, and helps clients access tax credits. Through these efforts, we support low-income communities in accessing affordable and high-quality solar energy and can eliminate the costs of installation entirely. We waive our fees for low-income providers and communities and recoup the costs of our services through the grants we secure.

Meaningful Benefits

Through the deployment of solar energy, both low income housing organizations and their tenants reduce their energy burden. Median rent prices have risen 91% and electricity prices have soared 30% in Western Washington in the past 10 years. Our projects improve financial stability month to month and protect against rising energy costs. Our projects have saved individuals and service providers thousands of dollars each year, with guaranteed benefits for 30-40 years across the lifespan of these solar installations. The money saved by individuals can instead aid in transitions to permanent housing, affording healthier foods, improving education opportunities, or a variety of other benefits.