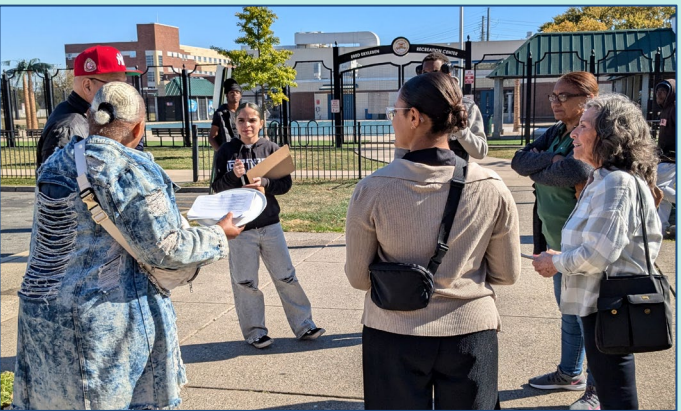


Clean Energy for Public Housing in Elizabeth, NJ

Groundwork Elizabeth & Partners



Groundwork Elizabeth
A non-profit organization dedicated to environmental justice and community revitalization in Elizabeth and surrounding Union County, NJ.

Housing Authority of the City of Elizabeth (HACE)
Provides housing and improves quality of life for all the residents in its over 1,600 units of public housing.

Mravlag Manor Residents Association (MMRA)
Enhances quality of life and fosters community for its residents through advocacy, collaboration, and education.

Rutgers University Center for Urban Policy Research (CUPR)
Addresses basic and applied research on public policy issues, with a focus on equitable access to resources and opportunities for historically marginalized communities and populations.

THE COMMUNITY:

Mravlag Manor is a low-income housing complex in Elizabeth, NJ, built in the 1940s. Located near Newark Airport, the shipping port, and Bayway Refinery, it faces significant environmental and air quality challenges. Elizabeth is designated as an overburdened community under NJ Environmental Justice laws and a disadvantaged community by the U.S. DOE.

WHO ARE THE RESIDENTS?

Mravlag Manor has 423 units of multi-generational residents, ranging from children to seniors, including people with disabilities.

ENGAGEMENT RESULTS:

CONCERNS: Urban heat island effect, power outages, inefficient heating and cooling, expensive air conditioning and heating, inconsistent power for medical devices and stoves, poor air quality from fossil fuels, power surges, and indoor thermal comfort.

PRIORITIES:

- **Power Stability:** Reliable electricity for medical devices, food, & essentials.
- **Heating & Cooling:** Affordable, clean solutions for thermal comfort.
- **Emergency Preparedness:** Reliable power, heating and cooling amid crises.
- **Health & Safety:** Improved air quality and thermal comfort.

SOLUTION

A clean-energy-powered **Community Resilience Hub (CRH)** with solar panels, a microgrid with battery storage, and a geothermal system to ensure uninterrupted power and efficient climate control. Upgrades will provide lower energy costs, energy independence, improved thermal comfort, and reliable power for critical systems (e.g., medical devices, lighting, stoves), especially during outages.