

# RESILIENT POWER

A Project of Clean Energy Group and Meridian Institute



RESILIENT POWER

PROTECTING COMMUNITIES IN NEED

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## RESILIENT POWER LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE LEADERSHIP GRANT AWARDS

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The Resilient Power Project, a joint initiative of Clean Energy Group and Meridian Institute, is working to deploy solar PV and battery storage (solar+storage) projects in affordable housing and critical community facilities, with the goal of ensuring that our most vulnerable communities have access to the economic, health, and resiliency benefits that solar+storage can provide.

To serve that expansive goal, Clean Energy Group launched **the Resilient Power Leadership Initiative** to build organizational capacity among community-based organizations and affordable housing developers engaged in building stronger, more resilient communities. As part of this initiative, each year Leadership Grants are awarded to nonprofit organizations working in the areas of affordable community housing, environmental justice, energy equity, and sustainability. To support the grantees' work, Clean Energy Group has developed targeted resilient power tutorials, project and policy development resources, and other related tools and materials. These resources are publicly available, to support similar work in other communities.

Through the Resilient Power Leadership Initiative, Clean Energy Group hopes to seed long-term, community-led programs that further advance energy equity and environmental justice.

### 2019 LEADERSHIP GRANT AWARDEES

#### Sail Relief Team ([www.sailrelief.team/](http://www.sailrelief.team/)) Puerto Rico

Focusing on response, recovery, and resilience, Sail Relief Team is an emergency aid and recovery nonprofit that assists communities in the aftermath of a disasters. As part of response and recovery efforts, Sail Relief Team assists in rescue and first-aid, as well as coordinating donations and volunteers during the rehabilitation process post-disaster. In order to better prepare communities for future disasters, Sail Relief Team builds resilience in communities by hardening power and communication infrastructure and educates the community on sustainable development. Sail Relief Team is currently focusing efforts on the small island municipality of Vieques off of the coast of Puerto Rico. Vieques was hit especially hard by Hurricane Maria and still faces challenges in recovery and rebuilding.

#### **Sail Relief Team's Leadership Grant will be used to**

- **Train two recent high school graduates as solar technicians for the island of Vieques.**
- **Begin efforts to build a community microgrid for households reliant on electricity-dependent medical equipment**
- **Build knowledge about resilient power technologies and apply that knowledge to educating others within the communities Sail Relief Team works.**

#### **El Departamento de La Comida ([www.facebook.com/departamentodelacomida/](http://www.facebook.com/departamentodelacomida/)) San Juan, Puerto Rico**

El Departamento de la Comida is a nonprofit organization in Puerto Rico that supports small-to-medium size farmers in Puerto Rico around sustainable agriculture practices and regenerative food projects. Working with local farmers, grassroots organizations, and education institutions, El Departamento advocates for food autonomy and resilient communities that can control their own energy and food. Resilient power is increasingly vital to El Departamento's work as it promotes energy sovereignty and will allow farmers to keep harvest crops refrigerated, power well water pumps, and doors open through an outage to serve their communities.

#### **El Departamento de La Comida's Leadership Grant will be used to**

- **Build internal capacity to strengthen knowledge of solar+storage**
- **Document the process of a solar+storage feasibility study and installation on the El Departamento farm and main structure**
- **Create a resilient power "toolkit", providing partner farms with valuable resources and tools for implementing their own solar+storage needs**

#### **Appalachian Voices ([www.appvoices.org/](http://www.appvoices.org/)) Boone, NC**

Appalachian Voices is a nonprofit organization advocating for environmental conservation and justice within Appalachian communities in the coalfield region. In an effort to build a new clean energy economy in coalfield communities facing high unemployment, decreasing and aging populations, and high poverty levels, Appalachian Voices is advocating for a clean energy economy. A staple of that work is using clean energy as an economic development tool, converting abandoned mine lands to be used for solar energy projects and advocating for resilient power policies on the local and state level.

#### **Appalachian Voices Leadership Grant will be used to**

- **Support work of the Solar Workgroup of Southwest Virginia to expand access to energy storage for Appalachian community critical facilities**
- **Identify solar+storage projects for critical facilities in the region and seek funding to develop those projects**
- **Coordinate grassroots engagement in support of policies to advance resilient power in Virginia**

## 2018 LEADERSHIP GRANT AWARDEES

### Local Initiatives Support Corporation Boston ([www.lisc.org/boston/](http://www.lisc.org/boston/))

#### Boston, MA

As one of the largest community development financial institutions in the United States, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) is dedicated to helping community residents transform distressed neighborhoods into healthy and sustainable communities of choice and opportunity. Since 1983, LISC Boston has been a critical supporter of multifamily affordable housing across Massachusetts. As a result of its Massachusetts Green Retrofit Initiative from 2010 onward, LISC Boston has become a leader in the field working with 50 owners across the state to drive energy efficiency and clean energy technologies to the Commonwealth's multifamily affordable housing sector, enabling the benchmarking of a total of 17,000 units, retrofitting of more than 5,000 units, and leveraging over \$17 million.

#### LISC Boston's Leadership Grant will be used to

- **Build organizational capacity to work with its long-term affordable housing partners regarding new potential solar+storage projects across their affordable housing portfolios.**
- **Identify potential opportunities for solar+storage in affordable housing through a Massachusetts Clean Energy Center funded comprehensive energy audit program.**
- **Support LISC's Green Retrofit Initiative staff members in educating affordable housing partners about the economic and resiliency benefits of solar+storage systems through peer learning forums.**

### Alliance for Affordable Energy ([www.all4energy.org](http://www.all4energy.org))

#### New Orleans, LA

Alliance for Affordable Energy works to ensure a fair, affordable, and environmentally responsible energy system for all of Louisiana. Their initiatives aim to reduce energy costs, promote clean energy job development, and improve public health through sustainable development and pollution reduction. As the only dedicated consumer advocate in Louisiana for utility customers, the Alliance for Affordable energy advocates for customer clean energy opportunities, including community solar and battery storage programs, as well as utility investment in clean energy assets, such as replacing fossil fuel burning peaker power plants with battery storage alternatives.

#### Alliance for Affordable Energy's Leadership Grant will be used to

- **Support the Alliance's engagement with the New Orleans City Council to provide community solar and battery storage opportunities for low to moderate income city residents.**
- **Advocate for a clean energy alternative to a gas peaker power plant proposed for New Orleans.**
- **Engage with New Orleans communities and educate residents as to the value of solar and battery storage technologies.**

### Catalyst Miami (<https://catalystmiami.org/>)

#### Miami, FL

Catalyst Miami has been advocating for low-wealth communities in Miami-Dade County, Florida for over two decades. In 2015, Catalyst began working on climate resilience, environmental justice, and energy advocacy. As an outgrowth of this work, Catalyst created a diverse, multi-sector network that advocates for climate resilience; the Miami Climate Alliance. Catalyst is also addressing community resilience through the creation of resilience hubs. The hubs will provide Catalyst Miami health and wealth services, as well as help communities to prepare for and recover from a storm.

**Catalyst’s Leadership Grant will be used to**

- **Install solar and storage in community resilience hubs to ensure continued critical service delivery and community relief in the event of a disaster.**
- **Advocate for progressive clean energy and energy storage policies and programs at the state and county level.**

## **2017 LEADERSHIP GRANT AWARDEES**

### **California Environmental Justice Alliance ([www.caleja.org](http://www.caleja.org)) Oakland and Huntington Park, CA**

The California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA) is a statewide, community-led organization that works to create comprehensive change and grow the movement for environmental health and social justice through organizing, movement-building, and strategic policy advocacy. CEJA represents approximately 30,000 residents across California, and has been a leading force in state energy policies for the past eight years. CEJA empowers low-income communities and people of color to create resilient communities that are blanketed with local clean renewable energy, including advanced comprehensive technologies such as energy storage. CEJA is the leading California statewide environmental justice-specific coalition with a focus on renewable energy.

**CEJA’s Leadership Grant will be used to**

- **Educate and mobilize environmental justice communities on comprehensive solar+storage solutions**
- **Lead the campaign to successfully implement the Multifamily Affordable Housing Solar Roofs Program (MAHSR) in California**

### **The Greenlining Institute ([www.greenlining.org](http://www.greenlining.org)) Oakland, CA**

Founded in 1993, The Greenlining Institute is a policy, research, organizing, and leadership institute working for racial and economic justice. Headquartered in California, Greenlining’s approach focuses on bringing grassroots community leaders face to face with public and private sector leaders. Greenlining works on a variety of major policy issues, including energy and environmental equity, with a focus on civic engagement and economic opportunity. Greenlining’s energy and environmental equity programs are focused on ensuring that California’s investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and other “green” technology are equitably distributed, so that all Californians have a chance to benefit. Through these programs, Greenlining aims to fight poverty and pollution, making sure that the communities hit first and worst by climate change receive environmental and

energy investments that will reduce pollution, create good jobs for residents, improve the health of disadvantaged communities, and strengthen local economies without displacing low-income residents.

**Greenlining’s Leadership Grant will be used to**

- **Conduct the outreach necessary to make sure affordable housing owners are aware of the challenges/benefits of solar+storage technologies and opportunities that will become available in California.**
- **Work with housing advocates, the CPUC, and the MAHSR program administrator to help ensure that building owners get the information and assistance they need to participate successfully in the program, and directly engage property owners and other community stakeholders to inform them and their tenants about solar+storage opportunities.**

**LINC Housing Corporation ([www.linchousing.org](http://www.linchousing.org))  
Long Beach, CA**

LINC Housing’s mission is to build communities and strengthen neighborhoods for people underserved by the marketplace. LINC is committed to creating and preserving housing that is affordable, environmentally sustainable, and a catalyst for community improvement. LINC serves communities across California, with most of its properties located in the greater Los Angeles area. Most LINC residents earn between 30-60 percent of area median income, and LINC’s expanded work in special needs housing has allowed it to serve formerly homeless individuals and families with extremely low incomes. LINC is committed to transforming its existing multifamily housing communities through sustainability. In 2012, LINC formed SEED Partners, LLC, a mission-driven energy and water service company to facilitate this work.

**LINC Housing’s Leadership Grant will be used to**

- **Provide staffing to pursue resilient solar+storage housing projects.**
- **Support SEED’s efforts to expand the model of the multi-site solar project and apply it to use tax-credits for energy storage on the same sites.**

**Preservation of Affordable Housing ([www.poah.org](http://www.poah.org))  
Boston, MA**

Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH) is a nonprofit developer, owner and operator of nearly 9,000 affordable homes in 9 states and the District of Columbia. POAH’s primary mission is to preserve, create and sustain affordable, healthy homes that support economic security and access to opportunity for all. Since 2001, the POAH team has advanced its mission with a blend of expertise and creativity, solving complex problems that others have seen as insurmountable. POAH integrates energy and water conservation into every project to manage its environmental footprint. POAH has secured long-term affordability for residents while addressing the interests of owners, funders, public agencies, and other stakeholders.

**POAH’s Leadership Grant will be used to**

- **Analyze and incorporate resilient power strategies at new construction and rehab projects.**
- **Gain a better understanding of how to include solar+storage technologies and resilient design principles across POAH’s existing affordable housing portfolio.**

## **Sust`ainable Molokai ([www.sustainablemolokai.org](http://www.sustainablemolokai.org))**

**Kaunakakai, HI**

Sust`ainable Molokai is a grassroots group formed to inspire youth and all Molokai residents to work toward a more sustainable future. Sust`ainable Molokai conducts education and advocacy work that honors traditional and cultural pathways alongside modern strategies for sustainability. Over the past seven years, Sust`ainable Molokai led the Molokai island community in creating energy efficiency educational programs that made it Hawaii's most energy efficient island. Building on the success of past community energy projects, Sust`ainable Molokai is working to build capacity to broaden the breadth and depth of the island's community renewable energy projects.

### **Sust`ainable Molokai's Leadership Grant will be used to**

- **Support the organization's work on utility scale solar+storage innovation, financing and policy work, and to partner with local community residents as well as Molokai High School, University of Hawaii, and the Richardson Law School Energy Justice Program to train future energy leaders**
- **Build partnerships through the Hawaii State Energy Offices and Legislators, and advocate for legislation to allow battery storage for lower to middle income households through GEMS revolving loan program**

## **THE POINT Community Development Corporation ([www.thepoint.org](http://www.thepoint.org))**

**Bronx, NY**

THE POINT Community Development Corporation is dedicated to youth development and the cultural and economic revitalization of the Hunts Point section of the South Bronx, a low-income community of color. Since 1994, THE POINT has worked with its neighbors to celebrate life and art in a community traditionally defined by its poverty, crime rate, poor schools and substandard housing. THE POINT uses the lens of environmental justice, youth development and arts and culture to engage Hunts Point residents in creating a more livable community and to generate economic opportunity. THE POINT has long-standing community-based partnerships in the South Bronx and has a track record of collaboration with local stakeholders, community-based organizations, elected officials, government agencies, and neighborhood planning processes.

### **The POINT's Leadership Grant will be used to**

- **Mobilize the community to advocate for large solar installations with support from back-up battery storage as the best possible scenario for the community, and advocate for a strong commitment from New York City to pursue the best possible scenario for energy pilot projects for the community, while creating renewable energy sources to reduce the current reliance on diesel for emergency power generation.**
- **Pursue distributive energy resource solutions, such as community shared solar and battery storage, and other opportunities to address the high-energy burden in the residential community along with the resiliency needs of the community.**

## **WE ACT for Environmental Justice ([www.weact.org](http://www.weact.org))**

**New York, NY**

WE ACT's mission is to build healthy communities by ensuring that people of color and low-income residents participate meaningfully in the creation of sound and fair environmental health and protection policies and practices. Since 1988, WE ACT has been a driving force of change that improves the well-being of all New Yorkers, with a focus on Northern Manhattan. WE ACT prioritizes its advocacy and organizing initiatives to address several

of its eight healthy community indicators: clean air and climate change; equitable transit; waste, pests and pesticide reduction; toxic-free products; healthy food in schools; sustainable land use; open and green space; and healthy indoor environments. WE ACT is the central coordinating organization for the Environmental Justice Leadership Forum on Climate Change (EJ Leadership Forum), a coalition of 31 organizations across 18 states.

**WE ACT's Leadership Grant will be used to**

- **Support continued implementation of its Northern Manhattan Climate Action Plan, which seeks to make the neighborhoods of East, Central, and West Harlem and Washington Heights and Inwood more resilient to the intensifying effects of climate change.**
- **Lower greenhouse gas emissions while lowering energy costs and improving air quality and, ultimately, health outcomes in vulnerable communities of color and low-income in Northern Manhattan, specifically, and New York City, broadly.**

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**For more information about Clean Energy Group's Resilient Power Leadership Initiative, visit [www.resilient-power.org](http://www.resilient-power.org).**

