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Newark High School Students to Showcase Mobile Solar Chargers, Highlighting Community Resilience

Newark, N.J., April 12, 2024 – Imagine a world where after a storm hits, your phone stays charged, and your community can stay connected. That's the future Newark students are building with the Newark Resilient Solar Initiative, a program focused on emergency preparedness through solar power.

This $500,000 project is equipping 800 Newark high schoolers with the skills to build and deploy mobile solar chargers. These chargers are designed to provide backup electricity during power outages keeping Newark communities connected in the face of climate change-caused flooding, superstorms, earthquakes, and other natural or man-made disasters.

The initiative launches a series of community showcase events starting tomorrow, Saturday, April 13 in the city's South Ward.

Key Points:
- The $500,000 initiative launched in October 2022 and is led by Solar One, an environmental education non-profit, and funded by the federal National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
- Partnered with City of Newark's Office of Sustainability.
- Students built eight mobile solar chargers for key community hubs.
- The free community events will feature demonstrations, educational initiatives, free food, games and other engagement opportunities.

Community Showcase Schedule: (all events begin at 10 a.m.)
- April 13, 2024: South Ward - Giving One Tenth, 715 South 20th Street, Newark
- May 18, 2024: East Ward - Down Bottoms Farms, 371-395 Ferry Street, Newark
- June 1, 2024: North Ward - Jannah on Grafton, 29 Grafton Avenue, Newark
- June 11, 2024 -Tuesday: West Ward - Urban League - Healthy Lifestyle Center, 513 Central Avenue, Newark
- June 15, 2024: South Ward - Hope Village 2, 51-63 Elizabeth Avenue, Newark
- July 18, 2024: West Ward - Newark SAS - Garden of Hope, 3-7 Fairmount Avenue, Newark

Building a More Sustainable Newark

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The Resilient Solar Initiative goes beyond mobile chargers. It fosters the development of Newark's youth as leaders in sustainability and environmental justice.

- Provides hands-on training in climate literacy and solar installation at three Newark public high schools.
- Aims to reach 800 students and train nine teachers during the project's 24-month duration.
- An advisory committee—the City of Newark Office of Health & Community Wellness, City of Newark Office of Emergency Management, Essex County Office of Emergency Management, City of Newark Police & Fire, Newark Science and Sustainability, South Ward Environmental Alliance, Urban League of Essex County, Ironbound Community Corporation, Greater Newark Conservancy, Newark Public Schools, Newark Green Team, Department of Emergency Management, and Jannah on Grafton—guides project activities.

"We are thrilled to connect with our residents in the Newark community and share with them the advantages of solar power," said Audris B. Torres, the initiative's Resiliency Coordinator. "These mobile chargers represent a valuable resource during outages, and we aim to ensure everyone understands their proper usage."

For more information:
Visit: https://solar1.org/blog/2023/04/12/announcing-the-newark-resilient-solar-initiative/
Contact Audris Torres, audris@solar1.org for more information or to RSVP.

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Solar One is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization whose mission is to design and deliver innovative education, training, and technical assistance that fosters sustainability and resiliency in diverse urban environments. We facilitate learning that changes the way people think about energy, sustainability, and resilience by engaging diverse program participants. Our programs help individuals and communities explore new ways of living and working that are more adaptive to a climate-change impacted world. The official IRS 501c3 designation is CEC Stuyvesant Cove, Inc.

Visit http://www.solar1.org for more information