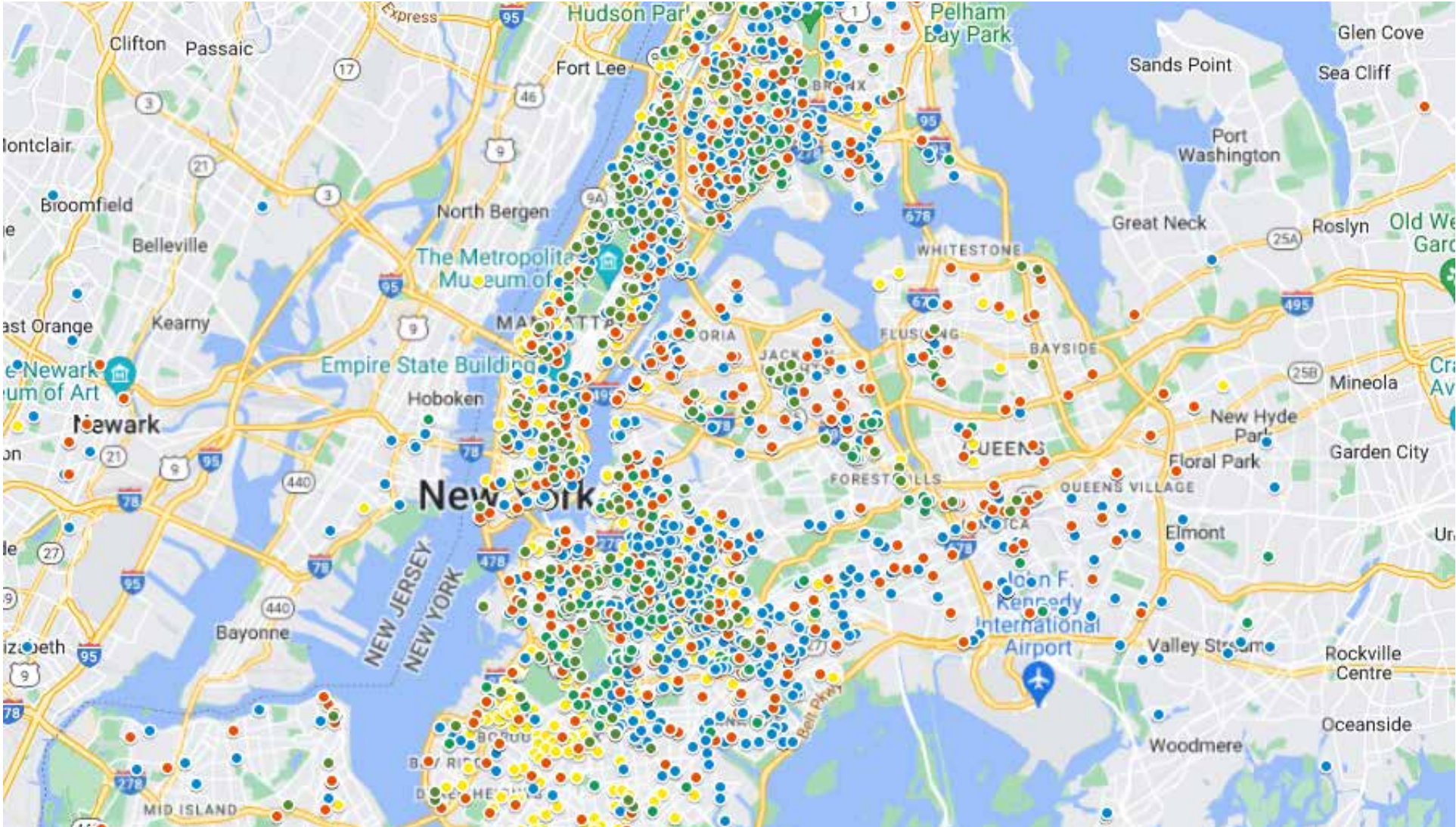




SOLARone

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Solar One Project Sites 2018 - 2023



● Green Design Lab ● Green Workforce ● Community Solar ● Here Comes Solar

From Our CEO

Dear Friends,

What an extraordinary year 2023 was for Solar One. We continued to expand our programming to bring the benefits of the clean energy revolution to communities across New York City and Newark, NJ. Through the Green Design Lab, we reached more K-12 students with vital STEM instruction and career-focused opportunities. We grew our Green Workforce programs to not only teach essential skills for the green economy, but also to place graduates into jobs in the clean energy sector. We made meaningful and measurable progress through our Here Comes Solar program to get more solar onto low- and moderate-income rooftops than ever before, and we finally began construction on the Solar One Environmental Education Center, slated to open in 2025, in the newly redesigned Stuyvesant Cove Park.

All of this advancement is due to the dedication, passion and hard work of our exceptional Board of Directors and Staff, who come to Solar One to make a meaningful impact on climate change right here in our own communities. Far from being deterred by the enormity of the challenge ahead, they continuously roll up their sleeves and get to work.

That work continues to pay off. In 2023, we added new partnerships and programs, including new grants from the US Department of Energy (DOE) and the New York State Research and Energy Development Authority (NYSERDA) to bring solar and other renewable energy to more homes and increase equity in the green economy.

We are experiencing the evidence of climate change across our Earth, but we know the solutions to combat it are in our grasp. We also know it will take a monumental collective effort to leave a sustainable world to future generations. We are proud that Solar One is helping to lead the way forward with effective climate solutions and a commitment to a greener future.






We are grateful for your support and excited to meet the challenges ahead.



Sincerely,

Stephen Levin

Solar One 2023 Highlights

-  Solar One was one of four national award winners for the Sunny Awards for Equitable Community Solar presented at the U.S. Department of Energy's National Community Solar Partnership (NCSP) Annual Summit in San Diego. The project was developed by Solar One in collaboration with WE ACT for Environmental Justice, the Brooklyn Movement Center, and Con Edison.
-  We celebrated our groundbreaking event in September for the new Solar One Environmental Education Center with NYC Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC), Gilbane Building Company, and BIG (Bjarke Ingels Group) architects with many NY political officials in attendance.
-  Solar One launched a Youth Advisory Council (YAC) to develop youth-led initiatives in our organization and design projects that respond to needs in their communities and in NYC at-large, in conjunction with Solar One's work. Students in the YAC will assess gaps in the climate movement and climate education, while gaining leadership and professional experience, and building their climate advocacy network.
-  We hosted a panel discussion in October, The Future of Sustainability & Resiliency in NYC: Policy & Development, among the presenters was Elijah Hutchinson, Director, NYC Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice; the panel was moderated by our esteemed Board Member, Majora Carter.
-  Following the panel discussion, Solar One hosted our first ENERGIZED dinner in October at Scandinavia House where we presented four Solar One 2023 Energized Awards to: Kirkland & Ellis LLP - Solar Champion Award, Alloy Development - Sustainable Achievement Award, Carl Heastie, Speaker of the New York State Assembly - Renewable Leadership Award, and Keith Powers, New York Council Member, District 4 - Environmental Stewardship Award.



Green Design Lab

To engage today's youth, they need to be inspired. As a consistent innovator in environmental STEM education in New York City, Green Design Lab (GDL), Solar One's K-12 environmental STEM education program reaches students in under-resourced communities, sparking interest in environmental sustainability and climate change through hands-on and interactive activities. GDL's creative approach to problem solving, enables youth to explore green careers and emerging green technologies, serve as stewards of urban green space, and understand their own personal impact on the environment and actions they can take to engage their communities.

Since 2009, GDL has reached over 40,000 students, 1,000s of teachers, and 1,000s of schools with classroom programs and teacher training. For the 2022-2023 school year, we delivered our programs to 5,068 students and 475 teachers in all five boroughs of NYC and Newark, New Jersey. Youth training and in-depth mentoring and internship programs for climate careers is a major focus of our work with middle- and high-school youth. Through classroom residencies focused on hard skills training and afterschool and summer intensive green career programs, we provide hope and opportunity for their future.



5,068
Students

475
Teachers

40
Interns

GDL Highlights

☀️ Launched the Climate + Energy Education Intensive program with NYCPS Office of Energy and Sustainability. Trained 11 teachers in climate action curriculum and taught 4,242 students through energy classroom residencies. This program replaces our NYC Solar Schools education program and is more explicitly focused on climate justice.

☀️ Delivered summer climate career exploration programs in Newark and NYC, reaching 195 youth with 6-week paid internship programs. Our program reached students at five NYC Public Schools including three international high schools, and Newark Public School students participating in the Newark Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). Youth did hands-on activities about climate resiliency, energy conservation, ecology research methods, and explored local sustainability initiatives. Many of the international students had been in the U.S. for less than four months. Our educators trained in “translanguaging,” the ability to move seamlessly between languages, and learned the pedagogical approach of teaching to a classroom of multilingual students.

☀️ Placed youth participating in our work-based learning program into summer internships in industries including clean technology, healthcare, climate policy, and education. Across the board for all of our youth programs, 40 students were placed in internships in 2023.

☀️ Moved forward with the Newark Resilient Solar Initiative in partnership with the City of Newark’s Office of Sustainability, addressing the needs of this highly vulnerable area at risk of severe environmental hazards. Funded by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the initiative includes a climate literacy classroom-based program for Newark Public School high school biology students and teachers; and a solar career and technical education (CTE) work-based learning program. As part of the project, student interns worked with Solar One to build solar and battery storage systems to address climate resiliency. Students, serving as change agents at eight community engagement days, will share information with their neighbors about emergency preparedness, including the benefits of the battery storage systems they built.



Green Workforce

To meet New York City’s ambitious climate goals, we need a workforce trained with the skills to enter the growing clean energy sector. Working in partnership with NYC’s leading workforce development agencies, Solar One’s Green Workforce (GWF) program delivers hands-on, sustainability-focused education and hard skills training in the broader clean energy sector.

Since 2009, the team has provided workforce programming and training in a multitude of nationally recognized certification courses for over 5,000+ low-to-moderate income (LMI) adults (ages 18+). In 2023, we delivered training to 30 cohorts in collaboration with our workforce partners. In addition, 379 students completed job training programs and were awarded 700 industry certifications in the fields of Green Building Operations and Maintenance, Solar PV Installation, HVAC, Green Construction, OSHA 30, Site Safety Training, and more.

Having a strong community engagement/job placement team in place since December 2022 has enabled us to leverage employer relationships to deliver clean energy industry focused job placement services for our trainees, complementing the more generalized placement work of our partner organizations. In the first year of its launch, Solar One staff directly placed over 122 individuals, and supported partner agencies to achieve a 70%+ placement rate (an additional 400 trainees in energy and construction jobs). The average starting hourly wage for trainees was \$21.



379

Students

700

Certificates Earned

Green Workforce Highlights

- ☀️ Officially launched the Bronx & Brooklyn NYSERDA Clean Energy Hub, supported through a 4-year grant from NYSERDA in partnership with the Association for Energy Affordability and the Center for New York City Neighborhoods. Hired a workforce development program manager to connect residents of either borough to training and employment opportunities in the clean energy sector.
- ☀️ Awarded funding from the U.S. Department of Energy for a three-year project titled “Advancing Equity through Solar Career Pathways and Capacity Building.” This initiative will connect multiple programs across Solar One to focus on assessing and improving solar curriculum, funding pilot workforce training programs with six different community partners, and creating resources to assist businesses in taking advantage of MWBE resources and incentives in the sector. The work is scheduled to begin in early 2024.
- ☀️ Hosted two Solar One career fairs in our Working Training Center in Long Island City, featuring 12-15 employers and attracting an average of 75 participants each. As the lead workforce agency managing NYSERDA’s Bronx Brooklyn Climate Energy Hub, we provided support for their Career Fair, with over 120 participants and approximately 12 employers in attendance. The sectors represented included Solar, Building Operations and Maintenance, Transportation, Construction, and Energy Efficiency.



“ During my training at Solar One, I learned that your work directly affects the climate. Now, I actively look for ways to help the environment, and seek opportunities to apply my arsenal of green workforce skills with the hope of making Earth a better place for everyone.

~ Joshua Brown, HVAC Helper ”

“ With the support of Solar One and Fortune Society, I’ve achieved my goal of working in HVAC. I’m excited about growing professionally and giving back to the environment.

~ Elijah Austin, HVAC Technician ”

Here Comes Solar

To create a more equitable and sustainable environment, solar energy needs to be accessible to all. Solar One's Here Comes Solar program envisions a just, renewable, and resilient energy future where communities disproportionately impacted by social and environmental injustices have equitable access to the benefits of solar.

Since 2014, Here Comes Solar has facilitated over 900 solar projects (32 Megawatts) in New York's underserved market segments, primarily on multifamily affordable housing. These solar projects help preserve housing affordability by lowering electricity bills for housing providers, low-income co-ops, and their residents. Our Community Solar initiatives are delivering utility bill savings to more than 700 low-to-moderate income (LMI) households, and our resilient solar projects are providing resilience benefits to people and vulnerable communities. In 2023, through our work as NYC Accelerator Solar Specialists, our assistance with HPD's Solar Where Feasible program, and our partnerships with UHAB, Fifth Avenue Committee, WE ACT, the RETI Center, and Enterprise Community Partners, we worked with over 780 buildings in NYC, helping them estimate potential savings, decide on a solar design, find available incentives and financing, and select a contractor.

Additionally, in 2023 we began working at the intersection of policy and implementation, advocating for more equitable solar policies in New York City and New York State. Our advocacy centers on translating lessons learned from on-the-ground solar projects into the policy world, while building relationships and collaborating with advocates in the broader environmental justice and affordable housing fields. We advocate at the local, state, and federal levels to advance progressive energy and environmental policies that make solar energy more affordable and accessible. Sign up for our [Solar Policy newsletter here!](#)

32 MW

Solar Facilitated Since
2016

581

Solar Projects Installed
Since 2016

900

Solar Projects
Facilitated Since 2016

780

Buildings Assisted in
2023



Here Comes Solar Highlights

☀️ Worked with the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab to provide technical assistance to organizations developing community solar in markets beyond New York City, including a New Orleans public school hosting a community solar project, a developer in Texas learning about best practices for subscriber outreach, nonprofits in Washington, Massachusetts, and Michigan learning about how to become community solar developers, and nonprofits assessing community solar feasibility on indigenous land.

☀️ Awarded NYCHA's ACCESS Solar RFP, in partnership with Accord Power for up to 7 MW of community solar via NYCHA's ACCESSolar program, developing community solar on NYCHA rooftops while saving money for LMI households and supporting workforce training and hiring for NYCHA residents. This project includes green workforce training for 50-60 NYCHA residents and a commitment by Accord Power to place 20 local resident trainees as apprentices. The work will realize community solar installations and workforce training opportunities for nearly 130 NYCHA properties.

☀️ Assisted NYC's Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) in implementing and expanding their Solar Where Feasible program. In 2023, Solar One reviewed the economic and technical feasibility of 200 affordable buildings seeking funding from the city. As a result of these feasibility analyses, solar is required on 125 of the 200 buildings, which will lead to over 4 MW of solar being installed as part of affordable housing retrofits in coming years.

“ We had a lot of help from Solar One, for which we are really grateful. It's really made a huge difference, having the solar panels. In the apartment that I live in, we don't pay an energy bill - we haven't paid a bill in years, and that feels like a huge gift. The building is really proud of this work and of being able to be a model for other affordable housing co-ops and other buildings in general in NYC and in Brooklyn in particular.

~ Leigh Howard, board member of HDfC co-op ”



Resilient Solar

To implement resilient energy systems at public facilities throughout Brooklyn and the Bronx, the Resilient Solar program launched in 2015. This \$5.2 million initiative assists with emergency response and recovery operations during power outages. The ten resilience community hub locations include the Coney Island, Gerritsen Beach, Kings Highway, and Mill Basin branches of the Brooklyn Public Library, as well as, The Block Institute in Gravesend, Kings Bay Youth Organization in Sheepshead Bay, Flatlands Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Throggs Neck Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Gerritsen Beach Volunteer Fire Department, and Villa Maria Academy in the East Bronx. Pairing solar with battery back-up (or energy storage) provides clean, reliable power and energy savings that also ensures continuous access to power during a grid outage. Our ten resilience hubs include a new generation of lithium-ion batteries, providing a critical piece of distributed energy infrastructure.



Highlights

☀️ The projects help New York State reach its stated goal of reducing carbon emissions 85 percent by 2050, as outlined in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, while at the same time helping underserved and marginalized urban communities to develop resilience in the face of climate change related events like Superstorm Sandy.

☀️ These projects could not have been achieved without collaboration from a wide range of stakeholders, including the Office of Resilient Homes and Communities, the New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS), Brooklyn Public Library, FDNY Tech Management, and NYC Department of Buildings - Office of Technical Certification and Research (DOB OTCR).



Clean Energy Communities

To incentivize city-wide decarbonization efforts across the state, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), created the Clean Energy Communities (CEC) program. Funded by NYSERDA, CEC provides grants, direct technical support to communities, and recognition to local governments across New York State that demonstrate leadership in the area of clean energy.

In addition to supporting municipal decarbonization projects, the CEC program aims to partner with local Community-based Organizations (CBOs) in executing community campaigns that educate and assist residents in the following areas: clean heating and cooling, community solar, and electric vehicles.

Solar One is NYSERDA's implementation partner for CEC in New York City and Long Island. As of 2023, we support two embedded staff at the NYC Mayor's Office of Climate & Environmental Justice (MOC&EJ) and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services Division of Energy Management (DCAS DEM) to assist with emissions reduction initiatives.



Highlights

- ☀️ Assisted the NYC Accelerator program in implementation of a \$160k e-grant pilot program to support clean energy projects and campaigns in low-income neighborhoods.
- ☀️ Engaged with local CBOs to spearhead community outreach and education of clean heating and cooling, and community solar opportunities.
- ☀️ Provided data analytics support to the Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice (MOCEJ) via our embedded staff. (This is ongoing into 2024 and beyond.)



Stuy Cove Park

To increase literacy, agency, and competency in climate crisis issues, and adaptation, communities need to be better informed. Stuyvesant Cove Park, located between 18th and 23rd Street along the East River, provides the opportunity for New Yorkers to participate in educational and community-based programs centered on climate education and the sustainable stewardship of urban land, while enjoying the Manhattan waterfront. Managed in partnership with the NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and our local community, Stuy Cove is a vibrant native-plant urban park and living laboratory where humans, plants, birds, insects, and animals interact, and youth and adults can explore the outdoors in a part of the city that is severely lacking in open green public space. Stuy Cove Park is part of the East Side Coastal Resiliency Project (ESCR) – a citywide climate adaptation project which began in 2022 to provide flood protection in response to storm surge, which is integrated into our teachings.

For 2023, we had a full roster of events that addressed the intersecting challenges of urban ecological habitat restoration. These conversations and hands-on educational events called upon the collective knowledge of fellow scientists, practitioners, NFPs, NGOs, and government organizations to offer insight to the public and park staff about best management practices.



Highlights

- ☀ Established relationships with mental health professionals at the local Veterans Affairs office, NYU's Horticulture Therapy department, and the Horticulture Therapy program at Bellevue in hopes of building a program of our own in collaboration with these partners. And supported Community Access, which supports housing and social services in NYC, in revitalizing the backyards of several of their downtown residences for folks living with mental health challenges.
- ☀ Collaborated with sister organizations such as The Lower Eastside Girls Club of NY, LES Ecology Center, the Bronx River Alliance, New York Mycological Society, Urban Soils Institute, and the NYU Urban Farm Lab by offering programming on soil health, seed saving, ethnobotany, fermentation, and more.
- ☀ Hosted an event on integrated pest management in which we made spotted lanternfly traps, released lacewings and installed Carolina mantid eggs; Led community members and Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) students in street tree stewardship programs in Manhattan and the Bronx; Hosted fishing clinics and planted spring ephemerals back into our new landscape; Collaborated with Grow NYC's Greenthumb to start a Community Ecology Reading Group; Became members of the coalition Forest For All NYC and were on NY1 to promote the annual City of Forest Day event.



Solar One Environmental Education Center

To fulfill a mission twenty years in the making, we are building the Solar One Environmental Education Center (S1EEC) at the north end of Stuyvesant Cove Park, scheduled to open in early 2025. Solar One celebrated the Center's groundbreaking in September with NYCEDC, Gilbane Building Company, and BIG (Bjarke Ingels Group) architects, along with numerous New York political officials, donors, and community members.

With the goal of inspiring the next generation of environmental leaders, this architectural landmark will be the first building of its kind in Manhattan, serving as an educational resource and unique space for community engagement and events. Blending its indoor and outdoor learning spaces, the S1EEC will be a site of innovative and interactive public programming and a source of economic and community vitality. Situated within the East Side Coastal Resiliency (ESCR) Project, LEED-certified, flood-resistant, and with a solar-plus-battery-storage system, S1EEC will be a teaching tool and model in the fight against climate change. The building will allow Solar One to expand its critical education, workforce training, and technical assistance programs, while also serving as a model of sustainable architecture designed to withstand flooding and integrate coastal resiliency concepts.





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PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Solar One collaborates with dozens of partners, including community organizations, education institutions, workforce organizations, sustainability groups, city officials, community boards, artists, clean technology professionals, and many more.

2030 District NYC
AC Power
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Alliance for Climate Education
Andromeda Community Initiative
Ascendant Neighborhood Development
Association for Energy Affordability
Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development
Back Market
Bluestone Organization
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Brooklyn Public Library
The Center for New York City Neighborhoods
Climate Generation
Community Access

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Community League of the Heights

Co-op Power

Cooper Square Committee

CT Round Table

DJs for Climate Action

The Door

Elmhurst Hospital

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Erie 1 Boces

ExpandedED Schools

Fifth Avenue Committee/Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Food Cellar

The Fortune Society

Gilbane Bjarke Ingels Group

Good Old Lower East Side

Greater Newark Conservancy

Green City Force

Greenbelt Native Plant Center

Habitat for Humanity NYC

HANAC, Inc.

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Ironbound Community Corporation

Jewish Latin Center

Joint Ownership Entity NYC

L+M Development Partners

LaGuardia Community College

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Loving Day

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Math for America

Metro Industrial Areas Foundation

Natural Ground 1

Nazareth Housing

Newark Science and Sustainability,

New Jersey Reentry Corporation

New York Cares

New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development

New York City Economic Development Corp.

New York City Energy Efficiency Corp.

New York City Environmental Justice Alliance

New York City Mayor's Office Center for Youth Employment

New York City Mayor's Office of Climate & Environmental Justice

New York Energy Democracy Alliance

New York Governor's Office of Storm Recovery

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

New York Power Authority

New York Solar Energy Industry Association

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

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Power Market

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Queens Climate Project

Queens Public Library

Riseboro Community Partnership

The RETI Center

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Solar Uptown Now Services

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UPROSE

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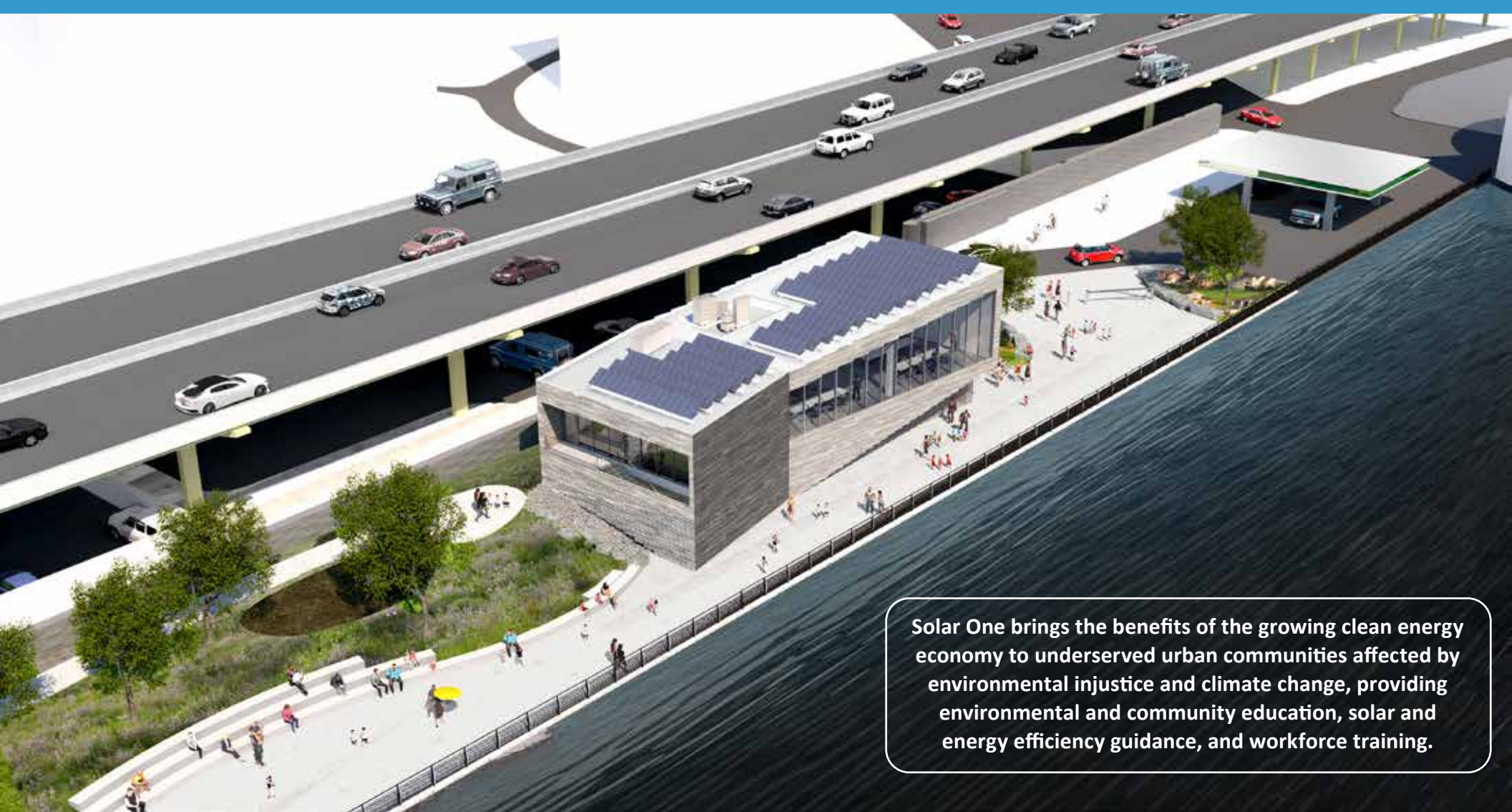
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Solar One brings the benefits of the growing clean energy economy to underserved urban communities affected by environmental injustice and climate change, providing environmental and community education, solar and energy efficiency guidance, and workforce training.

SOLARone

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