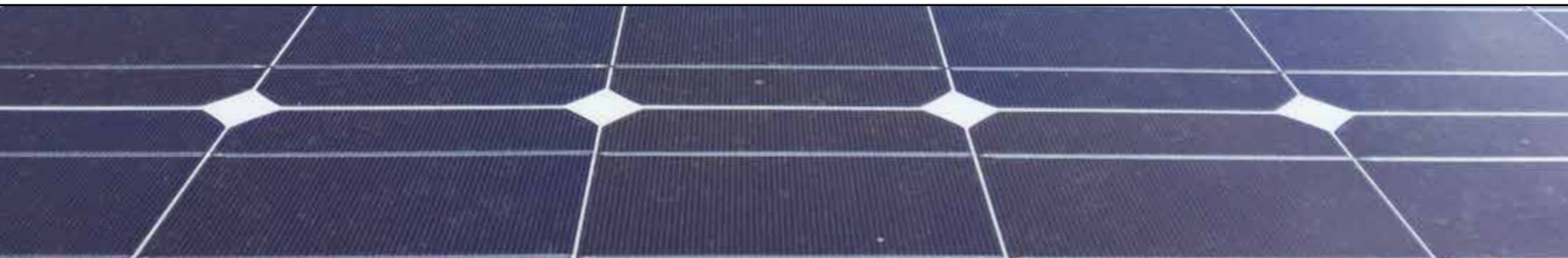




SOLARone

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Solar One Project Sites 2018 - 2022

RED

Green Design
Labs

BLUE

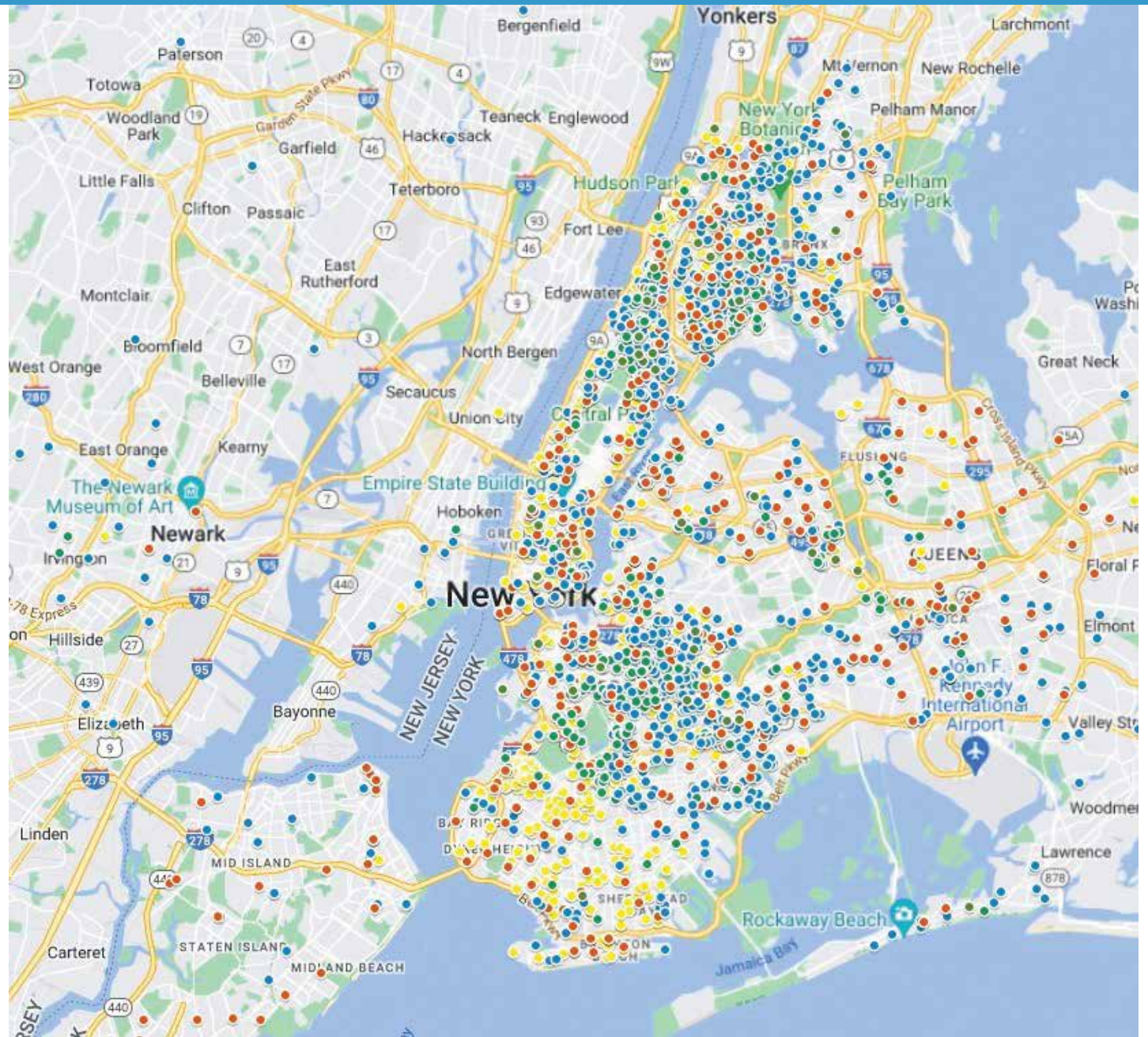
Green Workforce

YELLOW

Community Solar
Subscribers

GREEN

Here Comes
Solar sites



From our CEO

Dear Friends,

I am so excited to share the amazing developments over the past year at Solar One. More and more, we are seeing that Solar One is providing a vital resource for New York City and beyond, and our programs are meeting the challenges we face from climate change head on. We are providing critical technical assistance to get solar and battery storage onto affordable housing rooftops through our Here Comes Solar program; training and finding jobs for the Green Workforce needed to build out the just transition away from fossil fuels toward clean energy; educating the next generation of climate leaders who will usher in a renewable future, and building the new resilient Solar One Environmental Education Center in Stuyvesant Cove Park to provide a home base for our award-winning educational programming.

In everything we do, we are finding local solutions to global problems.

In addition, we are continuing our growth as an organization. Our amazing Board of Directors has done a stellar job shepherding us through an extraordinary period of transition, growth and opportunity. We have redoubled our commitments to diversity, inclusion, equity and are fully embodying the ideals to which we aspire.

Solar One is an extraordinary organization which is building on two decades of dedication, passion and vision to shape a sustainable urban environment for future generations. We are grateful for all of your support and energized for the opportunities ahead.



Green Design Lab

Solar One continues to be recognized as a leader in environmental STEM education in NYC. 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. Using a creative approach to problem solving, GDL uses the urban environment to inspire youth to explore green careers 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, thousands of teachers, and thousands of schools with classroom programs and teacher training. For the 2021-2022 school year, we delivered our programs to 3125 students and 198 teachers in all five boroughs of NYC and Newark, NJ.



GDL Highlights

- Delivered summer climate career exploration programs in Newark and NYC, reaching 150+ youth with 6-week paid internship programs. We worked with four CareerCLUE sites, Pathways to Graduation (P2G) and our partner The BEAM Center, five Career and Technical Education schools within the NYC Public Schools system, and the Newark Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP).
- Placed our work-based learning program participants into summer internships in industries including clean technology, healthcare, climate policy, and education.
- Launched a new partnership with City-As-School to provide an intensive semester long climate career course funded with support from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.
- Convened a working group of four young people to develop a Solar One Youth Advisory Council to elevate youth voice within the organization while providing high quality work-based learning experiences for young people. Students and staff presented on this process at the Mentoring Matters, Mentor NY Conference in March 2023.



3,125
Students

198
Teachers

Green Workforce

Our Green Workforce (GWF) program delivers hands-on, sustainability-focused education and hard skills training in the broader clean energy sector. Since its inception in 2009, the team has provided workforce programming and training in a multitude of nationally recognized certification courses for over 5,000 low- and moderate-income (LMI) adults (ages 18+).

In 2022, we delivered training to over 38 cohorts in collaboration with our workforce partners. 505 students completed job training programs and were awarded 952 industry certifications in the fields of Green Building Operations and Maintenance, Solar PV Installation, HVAC, Green Construction, OSHA 30, Site Safety Training, and more. According to our most current tracked long-term job placement, Green Workforce trainees had a 80% placement rate, a 78% retention rate, and their average starting hourly wage was \$18.

In April 2022, we opened our new Workforce Training Center in Long Island City, enabling us to increase capacity with new classrooms and a larger workshop, complete with state-of-the-art tools and equipment.



Green Workforce Highlights

- In December 2022, we launched Solar One's Industry Engagement initiative, hiring a Director of Community Engagement and two Community Engagement Specialists. This team provides clean energy workforce development and job placement strategies that strengthen connections between Solar One students and clean energy employers across NYC.
- Started the process for our instructor team to be certified in a new curriculum called NCCER (National Center for Construction Education and Research) in collaboration with St. Nicks for their new Federal YouthBuild program. This credential should be helpful for future partners.
- Began planning for the NYSERDA Clean Energy Hub activities for Brooklyn and The Bronx, supported through a 4-year grant from NYSERDA in partnership with the Association for Energy Affordability and the Center for New York City Neighborhoods. This Hub is one of three funded which will support all boroughs of NYC.



**505 Individuals
Completed Training
Programs**

**952
Certifications
Earned**

Here Comes Solar

Here Comes Solar (HCS) provides comprehensive technical assistance to community organizations, building owners, and renters to make solar cost-effective and accessible to all. We focus on low-income communities and communities of color who face disproportionate challenges to accessing the economic benefits of solar. HCS works to develop solar projects that reduce operating expenses for multifamily buildings (helping to preserve NYC's scarce affordable housing stock), and low-income homeowners, as well as community solar enrollment for renters. These projects provide direct utility bill savings and employment opportunities to low-income households and vulnerable communities.

Since 2014, the HCS solar technical assistance team has facilitated 31 megawatts (MW) of solar across 880 buildings, including 520 affordable housing properties (14.6 MW). This represents an \$80 million investment in local solar power, benefiting low-and moderate-income (LMI) communities. In 2022 alone, we assisted 138 building owners with pre-development support to plan for 4.9 megawatts of solar, primarily on affordable housing properties.

In Summer 2022, HCS organized a group of LMI homeowners into a solar buyers group, "Barrio Solar," that selected a minority-owned solar contractor to install their systems. The campaign launched in 2021 in partnership with Fifth Avenue Committee to bring solar power to LMI homeowners in Brooklyn.



Here Comes Solar Highlights

- In the summer of 2022, HCS assisted BronxPro to develop a comprehensive solar strategy for their affordable housing portfolio and assisted them to select a Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE) solar contractor.
- In Fall 2022, we completed predevelopment activities for a large scale solar project at the NYCHA Edenwald development in the Bronx, an opportunity to replicate our community solar model at greater scale.
- As the Solar Specialists for the New York City Accelerator, we assisted over 800 buildings with solar viability estimates.
- HCS assisted the RETI Center to initiate their first community solar project in Red Hook.
- HCS established a new partnership with Lawrence Berkeley National Lab allowing us to support community solar projects across the country.
- In 2022, 71 buildings committed to including over 2.8 MW of solar on new construction and retrofit projects through the Solar Where Feasible program, in partnership with the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD).



Total of 31 MW
of solar installed
since 2016

880 buildings
(547 affordable
housing)

520 Projects
with installation
complete

Resilient Solar

Our Resilient Solar program launched in 2015 and is a \$5.2 million initiative to implement resilient energy systems at ten public facilities throughout Brooklyn and the Bronx that serve as community hubs to assist with emergency response and recovery operations during power outages.

These resilience 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. Until recently, batteries were primarily used for off-grid solar projects in remote areas with limited access to utility power. Our ten resilience hubs include a new generation of lithium-ion batteries, a critical piece of distributed energy infrastructure that has been lacking from New York City's grid.



Highlights

The resilience hubs will store half a megawatt-hour of solar energy, equivalent to the power needs of hundreds of households.

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 (formerly NY Governor's Office of Storm Recovery), 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

The Clean Energy Communities Program (CECP) is a program funded by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). The CECP program 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.

The program focuses on fourteen high-impact actions that local governments can take to save money, foster a vibrant economy, and improve the environment: Benchmarking, Clean Energy Upgrades, Clean Fleets, Clean Heating and Cooling Demo, Climate Smart Communities Certification, Community Campaigns, Community Choice Aggregation, County Hosted Trainings, LED Streetlights, NYStretch Energy Code, PACE Financing, Unified Solar Permit, and 100% Renewables for Municipal Operations.



Program 2022 Highlights

Solar One is NYSERDA's implementation partner for CECP in New York City and Long Island. In New York City, we currently have three 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 support emissions reduction initiatives.

Highlights

- Assisting NYC to secure \$150k of NYSERDA funding to launch a small grant program to support clean energy projects and campaigns in low-income neighborhoods.
- Designing the \$150k pilot clean energy re-grant program and securing pro bono counsel to assist with associated legal agreements/documents.
- Providing data analytics support to the Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice (MOCEJ) via our embedded staff.



Stuy Cove Park

Through our management of Stuy Cove Park, a vibrant native-plant urban green space along the East River, Solar One provides an opportunity for all New Yorkers to enjoy the waterfront and participate in educational and community programs that increase literacy and awareness of the climate crisis and adaptation. Solar One manages this city-owned property in partnership with the NYC Economic Development Corporation and our local community, offering programs centered on climate education and the sustainable stewardship of urban land.

At Stuy Cove Park, the East Side Coastal Resiliency Project (ESCR) – a citywide climate adaptation project to provide flood protection in response to storm surge, began this year. Prior to total demolition of the park in July 2022 Solar One gave away thousands of the park’s native plants to community organizations across the five boroughs. We collaborated with the Bronx River Foodway to host a suite of virtual and in-person spring programming, including a propagation workshop where we shared cuttings of our elder bushes and wild indigos, and taught the community to root and spread them across the urban landscape. Our staff did weekly off-site volunteer visits to community partners, and we are excited to have now fostered a whole new range of projects with organizations such as the NYU Urban Farm Lab, the Greenbelt Native Plant Center, the Urban Soils Institute and more.



Solar One Environmental Education Center

In June 2022, Solar One and the NYC Economic Development Corporation relaunched the design and planning phase for the Solar One Environmental Education Center, scheduled for an early 2025 opening.

Located in Stuy Cove Park at 23rd Street, the Solar One Environmental Education Center will be a 3500 square foot education center, featuring interactive exhibits on urban environmental stewardship and innovative public programming. The building will include two classrooms, offices, restroom facilities, and storage. The building will be LEED silver certified, meet the requirements of the 2020 NYC energy code, have bird-friendly glazing, and meet criteria for flooding.

A 38-kilowatt photovoltaic array on the roof, with an energy storage battery system will generate off-grid solar electricity, allowing the building to serve as a community disaster relief center in the event of storms. Due to its location in a Special Flood Hazard Area (as defined by FEMA), the building will include elevated mechanicals, a steel structure, and a foundation all of which will be hurricane, tornado, and seismic resistant. The building is scheduled to open in early 2025.



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PARTNERS

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
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Association for Energy Affordability
Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development
Bluestone Organization
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Committee HANAC
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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 Governor's Office of Storm Recovery
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New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
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Sustainable CUNY
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UPROSE
Urban Homesteading Assistance Board
WE ACT for Environmental Justice
WNET- New York Public Media
Christina Michaelidis - Graphic Designer/Owner of
CGMdesigns.graphic

HIGHLIGHTS

- We settled into our new HQ and Workforce Training Center in Long Island City and already the results have been impressive. Over the course of 2022, we provided workforce training for 38 cohorts, training over 500 individuals and establishing a specialized job placement program.
- Clean Energy Hub, where we were awarded a 4-year grant from NYSERDA in partnership with the Association for Energy Affordability and the Center for New York City Neighborhoods for Brooklyn and the Bronx.
- Angelica Ramdhari, Director of Resilient Solar, was a recipient of the U.S. Department of Energy's 2022 Clean Energy Education & Empowerment (C3E) award for her leadership in directing the design and installation of several groundbreaking solar and battery projects in coastal communities in Brooklyn and the Bronx. The program celebrated completion of installation at two sites with ribbon cutting ceremonies, including Brooklyn Public Library at Coney Island and the Throgg's Neck Volunteer Fire Department in the Bronx.
- Awarded a two-year grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), in partnership with The City of Newark's Office of Sustainability to launch The Newark Resilient Solar Initiative. The program focuses on youth-led community education combining classroom, career, and community learning about climate, and solar charging systems, with solutions for Newark communities most affected by severe storms.



“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.”





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