



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 1, 2011

For more information:
Anya Schoolman
202-256-4327

DC SUN HELPING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS SAVE MONEY, GO SOLAR

WASHINGTON DC- While DC and federal rebates and tax incentives make solar affordable for many DC residents, some homeowners, businesses, non-profits, churches, and community groups could use additional financial and technical assistance to make going solar a more attractive opportunity.

In response, DC SUN created the DC SUN Community emPOWERment Fund, a fund that offers grants to local community organizations to install solar panels on their buildings. Grants will be funded from donations by local installers, community members, and other solar supporters in the District.

Anya Schoolman, President of DC SUN, says the approach is a win-win solution for encouraging solar in the District:

“The fund will provide grants or loans to high-profile community organizations, low income households, and struggling local businesses, allowing them to lock-in a low electricity rate and save on their electric bills. It will also help raise the profile solar technology through highly visible installations at notable organizations.”

To make the fund a reality, DC SUN partnered with [New Generation Energy](#), a Boston-based non-profit with a mission to make America’s communities healthier and more sustainable through the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. New Generation Energy provides DC SUN with an online platform, where installers, members, and organizations can make contributions and raise money for energy projects.

A number of local solar installers have already joined the fund. Installers who participate in the program have the opportunity to make a donation to DC SUN for any projects installed on the home of a DC SUN member. Donation amounts vary; some installers have committed to \$500 per installation, while others are considering a donation that varies with the size of the project. The five charter contributors to the fund are:



About DC SUN

We are a diverse and growing group of families, businesses and neighborhood leaders working to make rooftop solar power convenient and affordable for everybody in DC. We’re a 100% volunteer organization that’s not affiliated with any specific product or company and we seek to grow DC’s solar market. In addition to the emPOWERment Fund, we have a number of other initiatives outline on our [website](#).