

RENEWABLE ENERGY MARKETS PANEL DISCUSSION

CORPORATE INVESTMENTS IN EQUITY- AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE-CENTERED RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS



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Head of Data Center Energy,
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Heather Schrock

Director, Environmental
Partnerships, BEF

Tuesday, Sept. 19 • 4:00-5:00 PM



Renewable Energy
Markets™ 2023

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Pivot
Energy

REM  2023



September 2, 2020

City of Chicago Announces \$200 Million RFP For Renewable Energy Supplier for All City-Owned Buildings

| Evaluation Criteria | Weight |
|---|--------|
| New Build Renewable Generation Approach | 1/3 |
| Local & Equitable Co-benefits | 1/3 |
| Pricing | 1/3 |

Projects that provide opportunities for Chicago residents of diverse backgrounds to meaningfully participate in, and benefit from, the low-carbon economy will be favorably considered



STRATEGY 2

CONNECT COMMUNITIES TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Expanding innovative community ownership models for renewable energy projects on City property and utilizing state funding will help Chicago achieve 100% clean renewable energy community-wide by 2035. The City will support the development of renewable energy generation to bring the economic and pollution-reduction benefits of renewable energy to Chicago homes and businesses. Connection to renewable energy can increase community resiliency and decrease household energy costs. Community ownership models where community members own shares of the renewable energy infrastructure enables residents to generate income as energy is produced. The City will prioritize models that expand access to the most energy-burdened households.

“ Help create BIPOC ownership of the clean energy economy.

- Resident of East Garfield Park

Equity, Resiliency, and Environmental Justice Considerations

Those making decisions about clean-energy approaches should consider these initial questions to improve the equity, resiliency, and environmental justice outcomes of their efforts:

Co-Benefits

Economic inclusion and savings



Reduced pollution burden



Equitable access to critical infrastructure



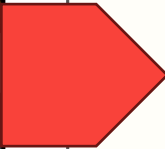
Community health and resiliency



Considerations Checklist

- Does the approach align with existing energy assistance programs and prioritize reducing energy costs for low-income households?
- Have documentation requirements for income-eligible benefits been streamlined?
- Are diverse workforce development, procurement, and contracting strategies used?
- Do new infrastructure development activities provide equitable job training, employment, and contracting opportunities in priority communities?
- Is distributed and local generation prioritized within the approach, including on remediated brownfield sites?
- Are outreach and education strategies holistic and include multilingual and varied approaches to reach all audiences?
- Are consumer protections in place to prevent unintended energy costs and to protect from predatory lending?
- Do communities hold shared leadership and decision-making in siting and developing community solar projects?
- Are sites for community-scale or utility-scale renewable generation development being evaluated for community impacts and potential adverse effects?

plan background // GHG reduction targets // climate action strategies // adaptation and resiliency // accountability // implementation table



GreenBiz

Behind Microsoft's bold plan to build social equity into clean energy buying

By [Heather Clancy](#)

August 6, 2020



Sol's 196-kilowatt solar installation at Christ Church apartments, a low-to-moderate income senior living facility located on the Baltimore Harbor.

Courtesy of

 Microsoft

Environmental justice in renewable energy procurement

Lessons learned from Microsoft and Volt Energy Utility

October 2022





Ignacio Fernandez Stearns
Google



PURPOSE DRIVEN SOLAR DEVELOPMENT

Annie Lappé, Vice President, Policy and Impact
September, 2023
Renewable Energy Markets

NATIONAL LEADER

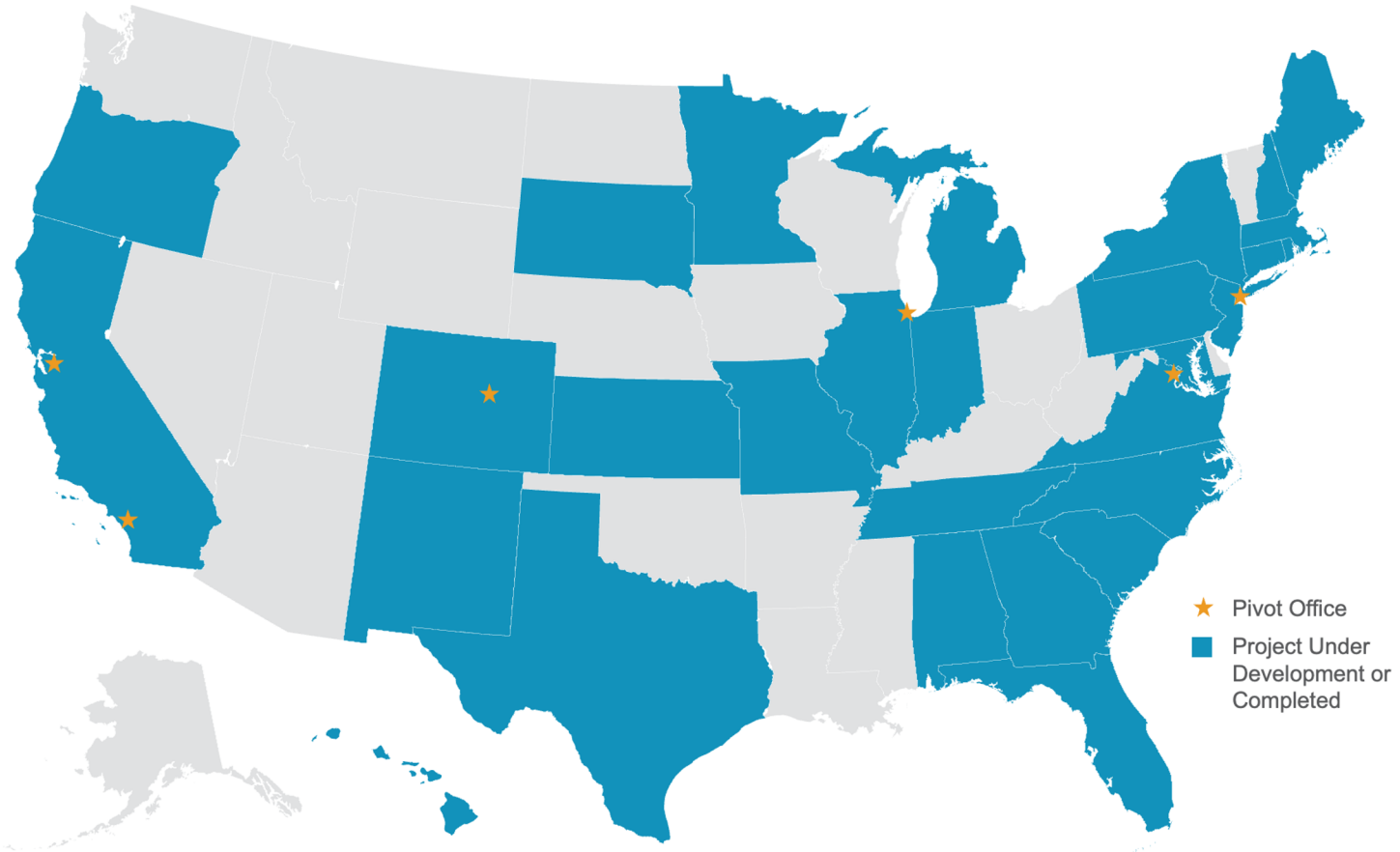
2.2 GW

Built, awarded, or in development

Our Services:

- Project Development
- Site Acquisition & Management
- Utility Development Services
- Structured Financing
- Asset Management Services
- EPC Management
- Community Solar Subscriber Management

With over a decade in the industry, Pivot offers deep experience across the full breadth of solar development and management capabilities. We leverage both regional expertise and physical presence in our key markets.



DRIVING IMPACT

CLIMATE

Carbon
Emissions

CONSERVATION

Land Stewardship &
Environmental
Integrity

COMMUNITY

Social Impact



Certified

Corporation



sunward

Building Community
Energy Together

Heather Schrock, Director, Environmental Partnerships

Equity and Environmental-Justice Centered Renewable Energy

We are dedicated to providing the **economic and environmental benefits of solar** and renewable energy to low-income communities, tribal communities, and communities of color throughout the Pacific Northwest.

We **build partnerships** that develop renewable energy projects and deliver wealth building and cost savings to communities.



Impact to Date

as of March 2022

Supported over

35

community-scale projects

Completed over

900 kW

of solar for low-income and tribal communities

Generated over

\$2.5M

in lifetime savings for over 1,000 low-income households

Secured over

\$700K

in philanthropic and corporate support

Pipeline: 15 MW



Corporate Investment

- Financing vs funding
- Philanthropic
- Stacked RECs
- Roof/Land
- Subscription
- S-RECs (Solar Stewards)
- Carbon Offsets (Clearloop)



Felicia Davis
HBCU Green Fund

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RESOURCE KIT – Access via individual links

MSFT Opensource Materials

1. [Environmental justice in renewable energy procurement – Lessons Learned](#)
2. [EJ Measurement & Evaluation Framework](#)

City of Chicago Opensource Materials

1. [2022 Climate Action Plan](#)
2. [Renewable Energy Procurement RFP](#)

Questions?
jenny.carney@wsp.com

Additional Resources, Initiatives, and Partner Organizations

1. [The Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership](#)
2. [The Just Transition PowerForce](#)
3. [Sustain Our Future Foundation](#)
4. [Solar Stewards](#)
5. [ClearLoop](#)
6. [VoteSolar](#)
7. [Justice40 Initiative](#)

RESOURCE KIT – Request Access to Google Drive via QR code

Environmental Justice Project Measurement and Evaluation Framework

Guidance

This guide clarifies the criteria and definitions included in the Environmental Justice Project Measurement and Evaluation Framework (EJ M&E Framework). Project evaluators should refer to this guide during the review of project proposals.

Acknowledgements

This tool was developed as a collaboration between the members of the Just Transition PowerForce, Microsoft CO+, and WSP USA. It is based on the Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund granting process and the Energy Democracy Flipbook, a project facilitated by Emerald Cities Collaborative and the US network of energy democracy practitioners.

The Just Transition PowerForce is an advisory committee of US-based environmental and climate justice organizations working together to ensure a transition to a clean energy and regenerative economy that is led by and prioritizes low-income and communities of color on the front lines of the climate crisis. The PowerForce was established in 2021 to align the climate commitments of corporations toward deep investments in the sustainability and climate resilience of frontline communities, enabling self-determination, economic security, and restorative and transformative justice.

The Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund (PCEF) is a City of Portland program that provides dedicated funding to take climate action and advance racial and social justice. Approved by Portland voters in 2018, PCEF is the first program of its kind in the US, investing in green jobs, healthy homes and communities, and a climate-friendly Portland.

Last revised: September 2022

Sustain Our 
FUTURE
Foundation 



clearloop
A SILICON RANCH COMPANY



Appendix



Purpose Driven Solar Development

Annie Lappé, Vice President, Policy and Impact
September, 2023
Renewable Energy Markets

DRIVING IMPACT

Pivot is a leader in environmentally responsible and socially impactful solar development. The following categories show how Pivot's commitment to following an ESG strategy by default sets us apart from the competition.

| CLIMATE Reduce Carbon Emissions | CONSERVATION Land Stewardship & Environmental Integrity | COMMUNITY Social Impact |
|---|---|---|
| Displaced GHG emissions from fossil fuel use by project | Low-till construction practices to maintain top soil | Dedicated community engagement team to interface with community members |
| Hourly emission data modeling | Planting of native grasses to support soil moisture and forage productivity | Community investment tied to all projects, with a baseline of \$5k/MW(AC) |
| | Wildlife friendly fencing | Income-limited participation through community solar subscriptions |
| | Sheep grazing that replaces mechanical mowing | |
| | Decommissioning plan to recycle and reuse equipment | |

CUSTOMIZED IMPACT+ PROJECTS

Pivot is ready to work with your team to design innovative high impact projects that help you meet your climate and community goals. Our team has experience designing and building projects that push the boundaries of what renewable energy can deliver, creating meaningful co-benefits for the communities our projects are located in.

| CLIMATE Reduce Carbon Emissions | CONSERVATION Land Stewardship & Environmental Integrity | COMMUNITY Social Impact |
|---|---|---|
| Siting for high emissionality | Dual-use clean energy and food production within the project | Proactive community listening sessions to design the project w/ community input |
| 24/7 dispatchability (storage) | Beekeeping and honey production | Community Benefits Agreements |
| | Siting on brownfields or degraded land | High levels of income-limited participation in a project (up to 50% and beyond) |
| | | On the job training opportunities for local residents + scholarships to attend formal training programs |

Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program

For calendar year 2023, the total annual Capacity Limitation of 1.8 gigawatts of direct current capacity will be divided among the four categories as follows:

| Category | Allocation (megawatts) |
|---|------------------------|
| (1) Located in a Low-Income Community <i>70% or 490 MW is available for residential behind the meter facilities</i> | 700 |
| (2) Located on Indian Land | 200 |
| (3) Qualified Low-Income Residential Building Project | 200 |
| (4) Qualified Low-Income Economic Benefit Project | 700 |

At least 50% of each category is available for projects that meet Additional Selection Criteria

SOLAR FOR ALL → GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND

The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) will make funding available **on a competitive basis** for financial and technical assistance for projects that reduce or avoid greenhouse gas emissions and other forms of air pollution, with a particular emphasis on projects in low-income and disadvantaged communities.

Objectives of the GGRF are to:

- a. reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other air pollutants
- b. deliver benefits to low-income and disadvantaged communities
- c. mobilize financing and private capital to stimulate additional deployment of greenhouse gas and air pollution reducing projects.

The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund will be implemented via two programs:

- a. The **\$7 billion Zero-Emissions Technologies Program**, which will award \$7 billion in competitive grants to implement Clean Air Act Section 134 (a)(1).
- b. The **\$19.97 billion General Assistance and Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities Program**, which will award \$19.97 billion in competitive grants to implement Clean Air Act Section 134(a)(2) and Section 134(a)(3).

\$7B SOLAR FOR ALL FUND DETAILS

EPA will obligate the \$7 billion for grants under this program by October, 2024. Applications must be received by October 2023. Almost every state is applying + tribes.

EPA expects to award up to 60 grants through this program; EPA may revise this allocation as it proceeds with program design and development of Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFO).

Eligible entities → \$7 billion in competitive grants to **states, municipalities, Tribal governments, and “eligible NGO recipients”**

Grantees must direct all funding to **provide financial and technical assistance to enable low-income and disadvantaged communities to deploy or benefit from zero-emission technologies**, in alignment with the Biden-Harris Administration’s Justice40 Initiative.

Projects will be prioritized that deliver financial and technical assistance to projects that deploy residential **and community solar, associated storage technologies**, and related upgrades. Additionally, this program will support the creation of high-paying jobs.



Heather Schrock, Director, Environmental Partnerships

Equity and Environmental-Justice Centered Renewable Energy

How do you define a successful environmental justice and renewable energy outcome?

“The Energy Information Administration estimates that 14 percent of households on Native American reservations have no access to electricity, 10 times higher than the national average. Many reservations have homes scattered over large areas, far from a utility grid.”

- Rocky Mountain Institute

“Nationally, low-income households spend a larger portion of their income on home energy costs (e.g., electricity, natural gas, and other home heating fuels) than other households spend. This measure is often referred to as a household’s ‘energy burden.’”

- U.S. Department of Energy



Who We Work With

- Tribes
- Affordable housing providers
- Community groups
- Nonprofits
- Consumer-owned utilities
- School districts
- Businesses



What We Provide

- Capacity building
- Site Analysis
- Feasibility studies
- Grant writing support
- RFP development
- Financial modeling
- Workforce development facilitation
- Project funding
- Contractor selection
- Project development
- Energy education

Barriers



- Workforce and Staff capacity
- Technical Knowledge
- Siting/Interconnection
- Payback
- Billing systems/subscriptions
- Equitable participation
- Customization
- Scale
- Meaningful benefits
- Who is going to manage projects for 20+years?



Social RECs™

Renewable Energy Credits with Social Impact

Integrity in Equitable Climate Action

Social RECs™

are renewable energy credits purchased in the Solar Stewards Marketplace where **100% of the proceeds benefit historically excluded communities.**



- Registered, purchased, and retired like traditional RECs
- Tangible community relations and branding value
- Authentic community-driven impact independently verified, tracked, and monitored through Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs)
- Meets multiple Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Diversity Equity Inclusion (DEI) goals
- Exclusively available in the Solar Stewards Marketplace

What is an Historically Excluded Community?

Historically excluded communities have experienced systemic oppression and the denial of societal privileges, thus resulting in social, educational, and economic disadvantages.



Decarbonizing the Grid and Expanding Access to Clean Energy

Bottom line: Our corporate partners accelerate the decarbonization of the grid by financially supporting the installation of new solar projects that achieve the greatest carbon reduction and socio-economic impacts in the American communities that need it the most.



Making Solar do More, for More

The science of **Emissionality** guides project location

Intentionally investing in an **equitable clean energy** transition

Regenerative Energy® sequesters more carbon

Long-term partner to communities



sunward

Building Community
Energy Together

Heather Schrock, Director, Environmental Partnerships

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