

Glass City Community Solar Brings Solar to Toledo through a \$60,000 U.S. Energy Dept Award, Will Participate in National Solar Competition

June 1, 2017, Toledo, OH – Today, Glass City Community Solar (GCCS) announced that it was selected to participate in the U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative’s [Solar in Your Community Challenge](#), a \$5 million prize competition that aims to expand solar electricity access to low and moderate income (LMI) residents.

The team, comprised of Vistula Management Company, The University of Toledo, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, the City of Toledo, and other community members, aims to develop projects that enable LMI communities in Toledo to go solar.

Over the next 18 months, GCCS will demonstrate innovative financing for commercial solar installations, and the lessons learned from this pilot project will inform other municipalities in Ohio, as well as Michigan, interested in going solar.

“We are thrilled that our team was selected to join the challenge,” said John Kiely, President of Vistula Management Company and the team leader of GCCS. “Our projects will benefit the people of Lucas County, and bring the University of Toledo’s leadership and passion for photovoltaic (PV) technology to real world applications that benefit the people in our community that need it most.”

Glass City Community Solar will join more than one hundred fifty other teams from around the country in their pursuit of solar projects and programs that expand solar access to LMI households and nonprofit organizations. All teams will compete for \$1 million in final prizes, which will be awarded by judges based on each project or program’s innovation, impact, and replicability. The GCCS team is one of just 35 teams nationally to be selected to receive seed funds, in the amount of \$60,000, to support project planning and to raise awareness.

“To be able to have a hand in a project that has so much potential to benefit LMI residents, as well as educating the Toledo community about the use of renewable energy, is extremely exciting for us” said Blaine Luszczak and Evan Nichols, Co-Presidents of UT’s Building Ohio’s Sustainable Energy Future (BOSEF) student group at the University of Toledo.

Randy Ellingson, UT Professor of Physics, sees great synergies for UT and GCCS, adding that “our students will benefit tremendously from these real-world PV projects, as they create an extended learning lab that will result in several large operational PV power systems.”

The GCCS team and other community members will develop 300 to 750 kW of PV system on rooftops and vacant lots to serve LMI housing across the metro Toledo area. GCCS is significant because the cost savings will reduce electricity expenses and will also support LMI residents interested in pursuing education and training in the solar energy field.

GCCS wants to involve the entire Toledo community, and welcomes any University of Toledo student interested in helping our community. To stay informed and monitor our progress during this 18-month competition, like us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/GlassCityCommunitySolar](https://www.facebook.com/GlassCityCommunitySolar). If you are interested in getting involved, email Info@GlassCityCommunitySolar.com to get connected and help us start building a sustainable energy future together – today!

About Glass City Community Solar (GCCS)

Glass City Community Solar is a partnership between Vistula Management Company, a Toledo organization with expertise in bringing solar electricity to low and middle-income developments, the

Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, which has a strong record providing innovative financing for renewable energy projects, and The University of Toledo's Building Ohio's Sustainable Energy Future (BOSEF) student-led program in collaboration with the School for Solar and Advanced Renewable Energy (SSARE).

With financing provided through the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, a replicable model will be created to install commercial solar arrays on Toledo area LMI housing to reduce electric bills, empower LMI residents to engage in clean energy generation projects, and subsidize an LMI solar workforce training program. The City of Toledo and the State of Ohio have expressed interest in utilizing this model in other weatherization and renovation programs.

More information about the GCCS team and projects can be found at <http://www.solarinyourcommunity.org/en/challenge/solar-in-your-community-teams/1/teams/view/6536>

About the Solar in Your Community Challenge

[The Solar in Your Community Challenge](#), sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy [SunShot Initiative](#) and administered by [SUNY Polytechnic Institute](#), is a \$5 million prize competition that aims to expand solar access to low and moderate income households; and state, local, and tribal governments; and non-profit organizations.

More information about the selected teams and the Solar in Your Community Challenge is at www.solarinyourcommunity.org.

About the SunShot Initiative

The [U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative](#) is a national effort to drive down the cost of solar electricity and support solar adoption. SunShot aims to make solar energy a low cost electricity source for all Americans through research and development efforts in collaboration with public and private partners. Learn more at energy.gov/sunshot.

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(Note: Vistula Management Co. has images of several of their PV systems installed in the Toledo area – please request these):