

August 5, 2016

Contact Matt Schwartz 415-203-7158

\$1 Billion Plan to Provide Integrated Solar Energy to Low-Income Renters is First in Nation

San Francisco, CA – On August 3rd, California’s leading low-income, environmental, and affordable housing groups submitted a proposed plan to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to spend up to \$1 billion in Cap-and-Trade funding for solar energy systems to benefit low-income renters. This is the first such plan in the nation and builds on California’s leadership in the solar energy field.

The plan is backed by the [California Housing Partnership](#), [California Environmental Justice Alliance](#), [Brightline Defense Project](#), [Natural Resources Defense Council](#), and the [National Housing Law Project](#) (collectively, the Nonprofit Solar Stakeholders Coalition). Last year’s Assembly Bill 693 authorized the use of utility Cap-and-Trade auction revenue to fund solar energy systems on affordable multifamily rental properties in California.

“This is our opportunity to make clean energy a reality for all Californians,” said Matt Schwartz, President & CEO of the California Housing Partnership. “This plan will ensure low-income renters—which comprise a huge percentage of California’s population—are able to enjoy the benefits of improved energy efficiency and solar energy.”

The Multifamily Solar Roofs Program (AB 693) is a response to the profound gap in the level of solar installations serving low-income renters and disadvantaged communities. When operational in 2017, it will be the first program in the country specifically designed to provide low-income renters with increased access to the electricity generated from on-site solar energy systems and direct economic benefits from solar credits allocated to each low-income household. The Solar Roofs Program will bring integrated solar energy benefits to more than 150,000 low-income renter households over the next ten years.

The Nonprofit Solar Stakeholders Coalition joint proposal requests that the CPUC adopt an integrated energy strategy combining energy efficiency, solar PV, and energy storage devices to reduce energy use, peak load demands, and costs, and advance utility efforts to transition to a smarter energy grid. Further, the joint proposal requests special efforts to target solar energy systems installations in disadvantaged communities and to provide job opportunities in low-income and disadvantaged communities. The plan also recommends that an independent, state-wide administrator run the program to improve on the performance of past solar energy programs.

“This is a landmark plan nationally,” said Lewis Milford, president of Clean Energy Group, a nonprofit that advised the groups in the development of the plan on issues including energy storage. “It is critical to bend the technology curve of new technologies like solar and storage to benefit low-income tenants and housing developers now, not years from now. They shouldn’t have to wait for years for reduced electric bills and cleaner air from these new technologies.”

The Coalition filed the joint proposal was filed on August 3, 2016 and all parties have until August 16, 2016 to respond to submitted proposals and comments. A final decision by the CPUC is expected later this year. A copy of the Nonprofit Solar Stakeholders Coalition’s is plan is available at www.chpc.net/resources-library.

About the California Housing Partnership

The [California Housing Partnership Corporation](http://www.chpc.net) (CHPC) is a state-created nonprofit organization that helps to preserve and expand the supply of homes affordable to low-income households in California. CHPC does this by providing financial consulting services, technical assistance, trainings, policy research, and advocacy leadership to nonprofit and government housing organizations throughout the state. CHPC’s efforts have leveraged more than \$10 billion in private and public financing to preserve and create more than 50,000 affordable homes for low-income households. In recognition of the key role that energy and water costs play in the long-term financial feasibility of operating affordable housing developments, CHPC runs the Green Energy Rental Home Energy Efficiency Network (GREEN), a coalition of more than 80 affordable housing, environmental, and resource efficiency organizations. For more information, visit www.chpc.net.

About Clean Energy Group

[Clean Energy Group](http://www.cleanegroup.org) is a leading national, nonprofit advocacy organization working on innovative technology, finance, and policy programs in the areas of clean energy and climate change. Clean Energy Group, in partnership with Meridian Institute, founded the [Resilient Power Project](http://www.resilient-power.org) to help states and municipalities with program and policy information, analysis, financial tools, technical assistance, and best practices to speed the deployment of clean, resilient power systems in their communities. For more information, visit www.cleanegroup.org and www.resilient-power.org.

Note to editors: Photos and interviews are available upon request.