

Lending a HAND Community Day with NHPF, HAND and GRID Alternatives

The NHP Foundation, the Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers, and GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic Team Up to Install Solar Panels For Washington, D.C. Affordable Housing Residents On Earth Day

Installation of solar panels will provide residents clean, local power and cost-savings

April 12, 2017 – Washington, D.C. – According to a 2015 Habitat for Humanity report, low-income families spend 17-50 percent of their income on household energy, compared with 4 percent on average for other households. With that in mind, [The NHP Foundation](#), a national not-for-profit provider of quality affordable housing, today announced it is partnering with the [Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers](#) and [GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic](#) for the first ever “Lending a HAND Community Day” to install solar panels at the Parkchester Apartment complex in Washington D.C. on Earth Day, April 22, 2017. The installation of these panels will come at no cost to residents and provide savings on energy spending.

Parkchester Apartments, located at 2704 Wade Road, in Washington D.C., is the first multi-family housing installment that GRID Alternatives is undertaking in the Mid-Atlantic region, which will provide a long-term solution to high energy bills. Volunteers from NHPF, HAND and GRID Alternatives will install the panels from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. ET.

“As part of our ongoing commitment to reducing the carbon footprint on all of our properties, we are pleased to provide our Parkchester residents with solar energy alternatives,” said NHPF CEO Richard Burns, “By installing solar panels at Parkchester, residents will benefit from a long-term solution to high energy costs and a source of clean, local power. We’re grateful to HAND and GRID Alternatives for their help with this effort.”

“HAND is thrilled to partner with our member, NHPF, and GRID Alternatives,” added Heather Raspberry, executive director of HAND. “For our members, this activity is more than just a volunteer opportunity, but a reminder of the importance of the work that we do to ensure individuals and families across our region have healthy and sustainable housing that is also affordable.”

Over the course of the Parkchester project that HAND volunteers will help with on Earth Day, volunteers will install 28 solar panels on each of the nine Parkchester buildings. The solar panels will cover the costs of Parkchester common area power consumption. The cost savings are allowing energy efficiency upgrades to all the units at no cost to the tenants, including new appliances and air-conditioning units that can translate to lower utility bills for tenants. These upgrades will reduce NHPF’s monthly energy costs by up to 50 percent. According to Mansur Abdul-Malik, assistant vice president, Development with NHPF, cost-savings from the project will help to defray the costs of other property needs such as increased security and lighting.

“With the support of NHPF, GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic is extending its services to tenants in Washington, D.C. Low-income communities pay the highest percentage of their income on energy bills, and it’s imperative that we make sure clean energy benefits reach everyone,” said Nicole Steele, executive director of GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic. “We are also looking forward to a partnership with HAND — to continue to extend the reach of solar to affordable housing.”

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About The NHP Foundation

Headquartered in New York City with offices in Washington, D.C., and Chicago, I.L., The NHP Foundation (NHPF) was launched on January 30, 1989, as a publicly supported 501(c)(3) not-for-profit real estate corporation. NHPF is dedicated to preserving and creating sustainable, service-enriched multifamily housing that is both affordable to low and moderate income families and seniors, and beneficial to their communities. NHPF also provides a robust resident services program to nearly 18,000 community residents. Through partnerships with major financial institutions, the public sector, faith-based initiatives, and other not-for-profit organizations, NHPF has 46 properties, including 7,969 units, in 15 states and the District of Columbia. For more information, visit www.nhpfoundation.org.

About HAND

For 25 years, HAND has served as the only multi-state regional membership association dedicated to supporting the community development industry in its efforts to increase the supply of affordable housing in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Through education, engagement and training, HAND builds the capacity of its diverse membership comprised of nonprofit and for-profit housing developers, resident service providers, lenders, government agencies, policy analysts and others, to support the development of sustainable communities for people and families at all income levels. HAND's mission is to support a professional community of housing providers in order to increase the supply of affordable housing in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region. To learn more about HAND, visit www.handhousing.org.

About GRID Alternatives

GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic is an affiliate of GRID Alternatives, America's largest nonprofit solar installer, bringing clean energy technology and job training to underserved communities. GRID Alternatives has installed 8,194 solar electric systems for low-income households to date, with a combined installed capacity of 29MW, saving \$236 million in lifetime electricity costs and preventing 647,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions. 31,000 people have also received training through the program. For more information, visit www.gridalternatives.org/midatlantic.

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