



*Energizing Life in Our Communities*

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Snohomish County PUD Awards Solar Energy Grants** *Organizations promise to ‘pay it forward’ to income-qualified clients*

EVERETT, Wash. – Two Snohomish County non-profit organizations have been awarded PUD solar energy grants as part of a four-year pilot program to expand solar benefits to income-qualified customers. The grants will generate energy savings that will be directed back into community programs.

As grant recipients, the **Community Resource Center of Stanwood-Camano (CRC)** and Everett-based **HopeWorks** will each receive a combination of bill credits and state incentives based on the energy generated by 417 76-watt solar units in the PUD’s Arlington Community Solar array. It is estimated each organization will receive close to \$7,000 a year from the energy generated by their solar units, or nearly \$28,000 over the course of the grant.

“We launched Community Solar in 2019 with the goal of making the benefits of solar energy more accessible,” says Suzy Oversvee, Senior Program Manager. “These grants enable the CRC and HopeWorks to take their energy savings and pay it forward to those they serve in our communities.”

The grants require each organization demonstrate how it will distribute the savings. One aspect of the CRC’s mission is anti-poverty work. The CRC will use funds generated by its Community Solar units to assist income-qualified clients with energy bill payments.

“These energy credits help us provide a more holistic approach to alleviating the effects of poverty,” said Joanna Dobbs, CRC Executive Director. “With another revenue source for energy assistance, we can free up funds for other essential services that normally cannot be addressed.”

HopeWorks will share the energy savings with individuals who complete one of the organization’s 13-week internship programs in landscaping, retail or food services. All funds will go toward energy bills.

“HopeWorks is excited to partner again with Snohomish County PUD to extend the benefits of solar energy to individuals with limited incomes,” said Ed Petersen, Chief Strategic Officer for HopeWorks. “We love energy and sustainability collaborations that incorporate local households from all economic sectors.”

The PUD is proud to partner with local communities and organizations to deliver affordable, sustainable, reliable and safe power to all customers. To learn more about the PUD’s Community Solar program, [click here](#).

The PUD also recently streamlined its Income-Qualified Assistance application. To learn more about current qualifications and resources available, [click here](#).

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