

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pennsylvania Solar Center Launches in Pittsburgh as Part of Statewide Effort to Galvanize Solar Energy Growth

Pittsburgh-based humanitarian medical relief agency Global Links to be first project with installation of 10,000 sq. foot rooftop array



PITTSBURGH, PA, November 19, 2019 – The Pennsylvania Solar Center, a new statewide solar energy resource hub established to guide non-profits and small businesses through the solar purchase process and connect them to qualified installers and financing, has officially opened in Pittsburgh. A project of The New Sun Rising, its 501(c)3 non-profit fiscal sponsor, the PA Solar Center will also offer online resources to all solar stakeholders and will educate decision makers and advocates about advancing robust solar policies in the state.

The PA Solar Center's first cohort project, a 63.2 kilowatt (kW), 10,000 square-foot solar array, will be installed on the rooftop of the warehouse and international headquarters of Global Links, a non-profit that rescues no longer needed surplus medical supplies and home health equipment from hospitals, nursing homes and the community, and redistributes those materials to public health facilities in vulnerable communities around the world and with local, western Pennsylvania nonprofit and safety net organizations. Global Links collaborates with U.S. healthcare institutions and the Western Pennsylvania community to recover hundreds of tons of high-quality surplus medical materials and home healthcare items every year that would otherwise be discarded.

Global Links' offices, sorting center and warehouse are housed in a facility originally used for vitamin and supplement manufacturing. The facility's old roof will be replaced with a reflective white roof that will allow for additional energy generation. Once installed, the array is expected to generate 82% of energy currently being used by Global Links. In comparative terms, the new solar array will produce enough energy to power



Top: Global Links headquarters, which house offices, a volunteer center and a warehouse, will soon be powered by solar.

Middle: Volunteers sort surplus medical supplies and home healthcare materials donated by area hospitals, nursing homes, and the community.

Bottom: With asthma rates on the rise, donations of no longer needed nebulizers make life-saving treatment possible. Photo credit - Renee Rosensteel for the Pittsburgh Foundation.

Photos © Global Links

6.4 homes per year for the next 25 years and is the equivalent of saving 6,000 gallons of gasoline per year, for 25 years.

“For 30 years, Global Links has worked to improve environmental stewardship in the U.S. healthcare system and to support public health initiatives locally and globally. We continually work to minimize the environmental impact of our own operations and thanks to the help and guidance of the PA Solar Center, we are excited to leverage our location to cover the majority of our own energy needs while serving as a beacon of our region’s commitment to solar,” said Angela Garcia, Executive Director of Global Links.

In 2018 alone, Global Links recovered more than 261 tons of medical materials and supplies that would have been discarded, provided more than \$3 million worth of international medical aid to 55 healthcare facilities in seven countries, and provided support to 30+ local organizations.

“The goal of the Pennsylvania Solar Center is to be a one-stop solar resource hub for all Pennsylvanians wishing to participate in the clean energy economy,” said Sharon Pillar, founder and executive director of the PA Solar Center. “Pennsylvania has been a leader for almost every form of energy development. We are excited to help our state lead on solar energy, too, and to bring the important environmental benefits as well as the huge economic and job growth potential that our neighboring states are already capitalizing on. Global Links exemplifies why we started the Solar Center – to help great organizations generate clean energy that will help their bottom line, so they can devote more of their resources to fulfilling their missions.”

The Global Links installation project was made possible through the innovative financing tool offered by [Scalo Solar Solutions, LLC](#), and through a grant provided by the [Green Mountain Energy Sun Club](#).

“Scalo Solar is proud to be a part of PA Solar Center’s inaugural project. By offering our expertise of the non-profit solar tax-credit model and connections to our roofing company, we were able to contribute substantial savings by optimizing the tax credits needed toward a new roof and solar array for Global Links and the important work they do for the Pittsburgh community. We look forward to supporting the bright future ahead for the PA Solar Center and the solar industry in our region.”

“The Green Mountain Energy Sun Club is proud to join Global Links in an effort to create sustainable communities by providing renewable energy and redirecting medical surplus away from landfills” said Stacy Mehlhoff, executive director for Sun Club. “The 63.2 kW rooftop solar array makes this location a strategic one for the Pennsylvania Solar Center, Scalo Solar Solutions and the Sun Club as our shared mission is to install more solar in Pittsburgh and beyond. In addition to the environmental benefits, we are thrilled that the solar array provided by Sun Club will result in an estimated 82% savings on electricity costs allowing Global Links to impact the lives of more patients.”

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Global Links is a medical relief and development organization dedicated to supporting health improvement initiatives in resource-poor communities, primarily in the Western Hemisphere. Global Links collaborates with U.S. healthcare institutions and the community to rescue hundreds of tons of high-quality surplus medical materials every year that would otherwise be sent to landfills. These materials are shared with public health facilities around the world and with non-profit organizations in Western Pennsylvania that are providing care for their community's most vulnerable people. For more information, visit www.globallinks.org. **Global Links. Sharing Surplus. Saving Lives.**

Pennsylvania Solar Center (PA Solar Center) is a project of The New Sun Rising, a 501c3 organization and fiscal sponsor. The PA Solar Center offers technical assistance to non-profit organizations and businesses to go solar, online resources for all solar stakeholders including homeowners, property owners who are interested in leasing their farm or land for large scale solar development, community solar participants (when available in PA), and municipalities seeking advice on solar permitting and zoning. The PA Solar Center provides an online directory of qualified solar developers, a map of notable solar installations, and listing of solar events happening across the state. Find us at www.pasolarcenter.org and on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram at @pasolarcenter.

Scalo Solar Solutions:

Scalo Solar Solutions is a privately held solar developer serving Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Columbus, Ohio. Scalo Solar utilizes solar technology and other sustainable building solutions to create opportunities that make sense for the environment and the bottom line. Scalo Solar Solutions is a Scalo Company, a group with over 60 years of experience in the roofing industry. The company was created from Jack Scalo's vision and a desire to drive innovation in the roofing industry and provide energy solutions to the rooftop. The Scalo Companies is comprised of approximately 250 experienced professionals in two states, serving the entire eastern seaboard. www.scalo-solar.com/

Green Mountain Energy Sun Club

The Green Mountain Energy Sun Club is a nonprofit organization committed to advancing sustainable communities. As a 501(c)(3) organization, the Sun Club® invests in nonprofits and focuses on projects related to renewable energy, energy efficiency, resource conservation and environmental stewardship. Since the program's founding in 2002, the Sun Club has donated nearly \$7 million to more than 110 nonprofit organizations across Texas and the Northeast. To learn more about the Sun Club or to apply for a Sun Club grant, visit gmesunclub.org.