

# Renewable Energy for Local Nonprofits

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*RFP for Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds*

## ***Green Built Alliance***

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# Application Form

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## Question Group

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Buncombe County requests proposals for projects to help the community recover from and respond to COVID-19 and its negative economic impacts.

Buncombe County has been awarded \$50,733,290 in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (Recovery Funding), as part of the American Rescue Plan Act. To date, Buncombe County has awarded projects totaling \$23,093,499, leaving a balance of \$27,639,791 available to award.

Visit <http://www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding><http://www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding><http://www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding><http://www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding><http://www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding> for details.

This infusion of federal resources is intended to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery.

Buncombe County is committed to investing these funds in projects that:

- Align to county strategic plan and community priorities
- Support equitable outcomes for most impacted populations
- Leverage and align with other governmental funding sources
- Make best use of this one-time infusion of resources
- Have a lasting impact

Proposals shall be submitted in accordance with the terms and conditions of this RFP and any addenda issued hereto.

[Click here for the full terms and conditions of the RFP](#)

## Organization Type\*

Nonprofit

## Nonprofit documentation

If nonprofit, attach IRS Determination Letter or other proof of nonprofit status.

[GBA IRS 501c3 letter.pdf](#)

## Name of Project.\*

Renewable Energy for Local Nonprofits

## New/Updated Proposal\*

Is this a new project proposal or an updated version of a proposal submitted during the earlier (July 2021) Recovery Funding RFP?

New project proposal

## Amount of Funds Requested\*

\$309,000.00

## Category\*

Please select one:

- Affordable Housing
- Aging/Older Adults
- Business Support/Economic Development
- Environmental/Climate
- Homelessness
- K-12 Education
- Infrastructure and/or Broadband
- Mental Health/Substance Use
- NC Pre-K Expansion
- Workforce

Environmental/Climate

## Brief Project Description\*

Provide a short summary of your proposed project.

We are delighted to share this funding proposal to support the installation of two photovoltaic (solar electric) systems for local nonprofits including:  
a 90kw system for the Homeward Bound Days Inn project and a 35kW system for the Charlotte Street offices of Pisgah Legal Services.

Photovoltaic systems reduce energy use, utility costs and greenhouse gas emissions. Homeward Bound's Day's Inn project and Pisgah Legal's office space are both ideal locations for these solar systems. The nonprofits own these facilities, the roofs quality and orientation are ideal, and they and their clients could benefit from the reduction of utility bills.

Sugar Hollow Solar has been selected through an RFP process by the installer, and they have provided the cost quotes that are in this proposal.

## Project Plan\*

Explain how the project will be structured and implemented, including timeframe.

Through the Solarize campaign we sent out a Request for Proposal for nonprofit organizations to submit their buildings as candidates for receiving community support for photovoltaic systems. We received proposals from ten nonprofits interested in having a solar system installed with support from GBA and community partners. From that list we narrowed it down to the best three locations. One nonprofit project is being funded through the Solarize campaign. Two additional nonprofits, Homeward Bound and Pisgah Legal are also great candidates to receive solar energy systems. We have analyzed their energy bills and roof orientation and determined they have excellent sites for these systems. Additionally, their missions support at risk populations in Buncombe County.

Through the first round of County ARPA funding we did an RFP process to select a solar installer for our low income solar program. Sugar Hollow Solar was selected.

If funded we would work closely with Homeward Bound and Pisgah Legal to prepare for the solar systems to be installed by Sugar Hollow. We would serve as the client representative in the process to ensure the system was installed correctly, the contract covered any ongoing maintenance, and that any issues that arise are taken care of in an expedited way.

## Statement of Need\*

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need, and cite the source of the data.

Identifying nonprofits who own their own buildings, have quality roofs, with limited shading from trees and buildings can be difficult. Through an RFP process we identified these two nonprofits as ideal to receive this funding.

Homeward Bound serves the homeless population and Pisgah Legal provides a wide variety of services for low income residents. Any savings on their utility bills will allow them to further their mission of serving populations in need.

These PV systems will also support the County in meeting the 100% renewable energy goal as all buildings in the County with good solar access are needed to meet this bold goal.

## Link to COVID-19\*

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

The high need of services for the homeless and low income populations grew tremendously during the Covid-19 pandemic. BIPOC communities were especially impacted and Homeward Bound and Pisgah Legal had to innovate their service models and hire additional staff to keep up with demand for their services such as housing the homeless and providing support for domestic abuse and people in poverty.

By funding these solar energy systems these nonprofits will save money which will allow them to be more resilient in their recovery from the pandemic.

## Population Served\*

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served.

Funding for the projects will support the two nonprofits and the clients they serve.

Homeward Bound has housed more than 2,200 people with an 89% retention rate. A key ingredient in their success are the supportive services that accompany housing. The key to keeping people in housing is trained, compassionate, and nonjudgmental staff who care about the people served.

Pisgah Legal:

- provides free civil legal aid to people who live in poverty;
- helps more than 20,000 of the most vulnerable people in our communities annually to meet urgent needs such as: housing, safety from abuse, health care and income;
- partners with dozens of other agencies to make sustainable change for people in crisis;
- improves systems and policies that impact the lives of thousands of low-income people.

## Results\*

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

The primary metrics tracked for this project are:

- Utility bill savings to the nonprofits
- Energy reduced
- Greenhouse gas emissions reduced

At the time of this writing we are awaiting the estimates on savings from Sugar Hollow Solar. We can provide this information at a later date upon request.

We will also request information from the nonprofits showing how the PV systems will help them meet their goals.

## Evaluation\*

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

Upon installation we will tracking energy generation, greenhouse gas reduction, and financial savings due to utility bill savings.

Each nonprofit will have an online dashboard that will show how much energy, utility costs and greenhouse gases are being saved on a daily, monthly and annual basis. This information can be shared with the public if they desire.

## Equity Impact\*

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

Many nonprofits struggled to keep up with the demand for their services during the pandemic. Both Homeward Bound and Pisgah Legal serve BIPOC individuals and families. GBA, Homeward Bound, and Pisgah

Legal all have a deep commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion through the clients we serve, hiring practices and our Boards.

## Project Partners\*

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:

- 1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
- 2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform.

Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project.

Sugar Hollow Solar will design and install the solar systems. They are a subcontractor for this project and will be responsible for 100% of the solar system installations. GBA staff will be the client representatives for Homeward Bound and Pisgah Legal to ensure the projects are completed efficiently and effectively.

## Capacity\*

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

Sugar Hollow Solar selected as solar installer. Sugar Hollow is based in Buncombe County and can install residential and commercial/nonprofit PV systems. Sugar Hollow has 40 staff and has installed over 750 solar systems over the past 10 years.

Green Built Alliance has been advancing sustainability in the built environment in the region for 20 years. Our diversity of projects, programs, and staff allows us to improve the energy efficiency, affordability, comfort and health of a whole host of buildings from small mobile homes to larger certified green homes, as well as to support solar energy systems for schools, like the latest Isaac Dickson Elementary School 350 kw photovoltaic project.

We have the staff, skill set, capacity, clients, contractor relationships, community partners, and network already in place to implement this program.

Here are a few stats that show our impact:

Low-income homes in Buncombe County that have received energy upgrades since 2017 by Energy Savers Network: 859  
 Solarize installations: 180  
 Neighbor to Neighbor free solar systems: 13

We have successfully executed numerous annual contracts with both Buncombe County and the City of Asheville. In FY21, we executed the (ongoing) Solarize Asheville-Buncombe campaign that includes the Neighbor to Neighbor free solar program we hope to extend with this funding. For the Neighbor to Neighbor program we facilitated the installation of 13 solar systems for low income clients. These projects were funded by the City of Asheville (\$25,000), Buncombe County (\$100,000), and private donations \$9,000.

In 2010, our organization received ARRA funding for a neighborhood energy-efficiency project. Additionally, GBA's ED Sam Ruark managed a \$1 million energy-efficiency upgrade for Sonoma County, CA from 2010 to 2012 with ARRA funding.

## Budget\*

Provide a detailed project budget including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Buncombe County Recovery Funds.

Download a copy of the budget form [HERE](#). Complete the form, and upload it using the button below.

GBA Recovery-Funds-budget-round 2.xlsx

## Special Considerations\*

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

We understand that Homeward Bound and Pisgah Legal are applying for additional ARPA funds as well to support their ability to service clients.

If the County doesn't have enough funding to support this solar project project and the core service and capital project needs of the two organizations we can yield to those needs that these organizations if needed.

We are hoping that this proposal stands on its own merit by meeting the multiple goals of energy, costs and greenhouse gas reductions and supporting equity and inclusion.

Thank you for considering this request!

## File Attachment Summary

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### *Applicant File Uploads*

- GBA IRS 501c3 letter.pdf
- GBA Recovery-Funds-budget-round 2.xlsx



OGDEN UT 84201-0029

In reply refer to: 4077391934  
Sep. 14, 2017 LTR 4168C 0  
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GREEN BUILT ALLIANCE  
% CINDY MEEHAN-PATTON  
PO BOX 17026  
ASHEVILLE NC 28816-7026

023747

Employer ID Number: 56-2225428  
Form 990 required: YES

Dear Taxpayer:

This is in response to your request dated Aug. 15, 2017, regarding your tax-exempt status.

We issued you a determination letter in FEBRUARY 2001, recognizing you as tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3).

Our records also indicate you're not a private foundation as defined under IRC Section 509(a) because you're described in IRC Sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

Donors can deduct contributions they make to you as provided in IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts under IRC Sections 2055, 2106, and 2522.

In the heading of this letter, we indicated whether you must file an annual information return. If a return is required, you must file Form 990, 990-EZ, 990-N, or 990-PF by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of your annual accounting period. IRC Section 6033(j) provides that, if you don't file a required annual information return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked on the filing due date of the third required return or notice.

For tax forms, instructions, and publications, visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or call 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

If you have questions, call 1-877-829-5500 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., local time, Monday through Friday (Alaska and Hawaii follow Pacific Time).

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Sep. 14, 2017 LTR 4168C 0  
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GREEN BUILT ALLIANCE  
% CINDY MEEHAN-PATTON  
PO BOX 17026  
ASHEVILLE NC 28816-7026

Sincerely yours,

*Stephen A. Martin*

Stephen A. Martin  
Director, EO Rulings & Agreements

## Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Proposed Project Budget

<b>Organization Name:</b>	<b>Green Built Alliance</b>
<b>Project Name:</b>	<b>Renewable Energy for Local Nonprofits</b>
<b>Amount Requested:</b>	<b>309,000</b>

<b>Proposed Project Revenue Funder</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Confirmed or Pending?</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Proposed Buncombe COVID Recovery Funds	\$ 309,000.00	Pending	
GBA General Operating Budget	\$ 5,000.00	Confirmed	
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 314,000.00</b>		

<b>Proposed Project Expenses</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Capital or Operating</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Homeward Bound Photovoltaic System	\$ 189,000.00		\$ 189,000.00		
Pisgah Legal Photovoltaic System	\$ 88,000.00		\$ 88,000.00		
Green Built Alliance project facilitation	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 25,000.00		
Green Built Alliance grant administration	\$ 12,000.00		\$ 12,000.00		
List expenses here			\$ -		
List expenses here			\$ -		
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$ 314,000.00</b>		