SAVESOLAR

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NEW COLUMBIA SOLAR

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

SUNPOWER®

solaredge

Case Study - Fort Chaplin Park Apartments

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The Largest Rooftop Community Solar System in Washington, D.C.

Under Washington, D.C.'s innovative Solar for All program, SaveSolar, along with Standard Companies and New Columbia Solar, have equipped Fort Chaplin Park Apartments with a community solar system spanning 45 buildings, making it the largest rooftop community solar system in the District.

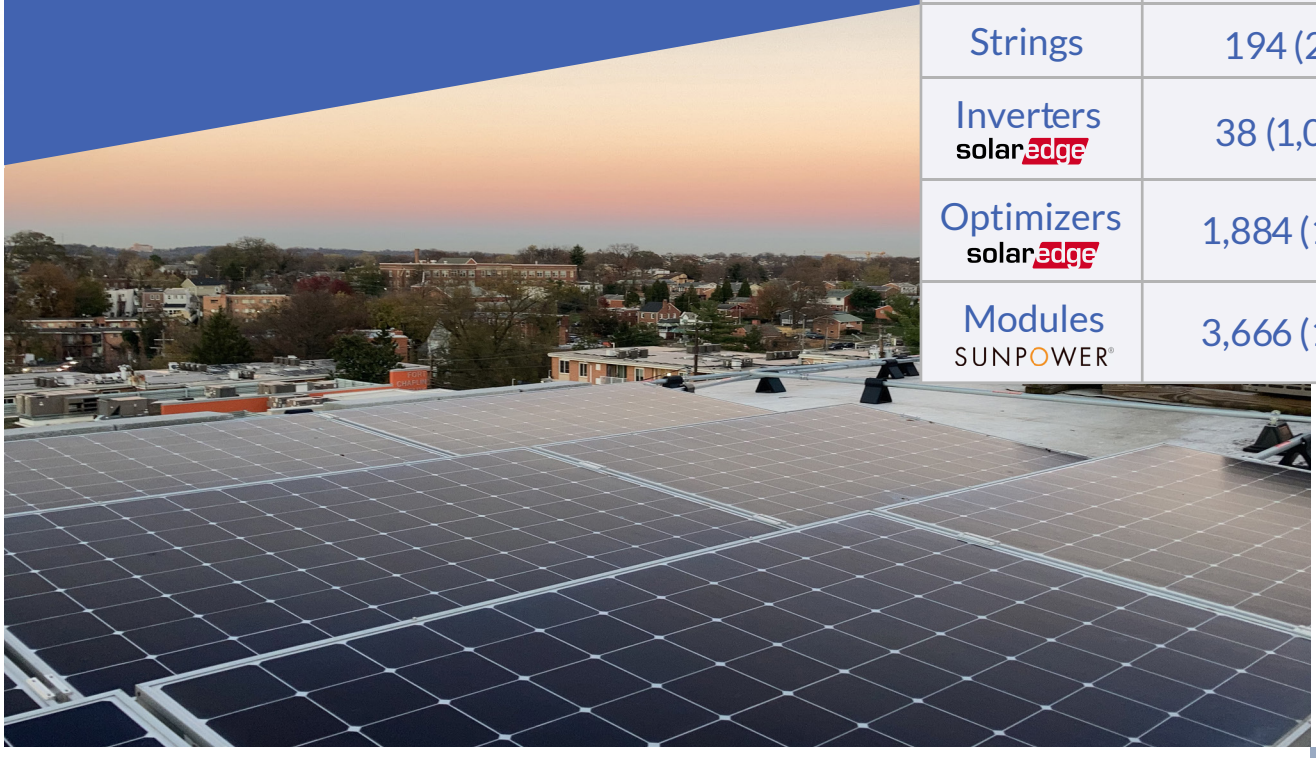
More than 450 low and moderate-income residents will receive free electricity for a period of 15 years at no cost through funding from the Department of Energy and Environment's 'Solar for All' program, with the installation generating about 1.5M kWh of energy annually.

With the project's upfront costs covered by the District's Solar for All program, which is currently operated by the DC Sustainable Energy Utility (DCSEU), SaveSolar was able to ensure that the owner of Fort Chaplin Park Apartments could finance rooftop maintenance and increase their revenue, all while guaranteeing that each resident of the complex qualifies to save $500 a year on their electric bills.

Residents will save over $2 million dollars in energy costs over the life of the system, while Standard Companies enjoys a new and substantial revenue stream, all while providing a zero out-of-pocket, turn-key solution managed by SaveSolar.

Project Information

Project Size	1.28 MW
Panels	~3,300
Location	Washington, D.C.
Strings	194 (21,774 ft.)
Inverters solaredge	38 (1,060.2 kW)
Optimizers solaredge	1,884 (1,507.2 kW)
Modules SUNPOWER®	3,666 (1,209.8 kW)



Standard Companies
National Affordable Housing Developers

Recognized with the 2019 Tax Credit Excellence Award by the Affordable Housing Tax Credit Coalition, Standard Companies' work at Fort Chaplin Park Apartments included expanding affordability protections to 100% of residents – an improvement of nearly 30% – and completing a $33 million renovation of the property. The property now boasts upgraded unit interiors, modernized building systems and a 5,000 square foot, LEED-certified community center offering extensive amenity and recreational space.

It soon became clear, after discussions with SaveSolar, that a rooftop renovation was not only a capital improvement in the brick-and-mortar sense, but the new rooftop could become the perfect canvas for a community solar system that is now providing discounted energy directly to low and moderate-income residents living on the same property. Such an improvement in the property's energy efficiency credentials was a fantastic post-rehabilitation opportunity

"In our time working with SaveSolar, which involves projects in Illinois, California and D.C., they have shown a unique ability to navigate the tricky regulatory landscape while securing partnerships and implementing technical solutions to maximize benefits for everyone, but especially for the community."

Brad Martinson, Chief Operating Officer, Standard Companies

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The Challenge

The prime challenge was in designing and interconnecting the solar systems spanning 45 rooftops across two properties. Extensive site-surveys included a shading analysis which led to SaveSolar contributing funds for trimming in order to maximize system production and total revenue to Standard Companies. New Columbia Solar worked diligently to engineer a project with 15 different interconnections and worked with PEPCO to ensure they were all energized.

A Consultative Approach

During early discussions, SaveSolar identified that New Columbia Solar — D.C.'s leading solar EPC organization — were the ideal partner to work with to develop and construct such a large project. In conjunction, SaveSolar:

- Proposed an innovative rooftop lease model enabling Standard Companies to immediately monetize their rooftop and generate a long-term revenue stream
- Developed the project design and estimation (engaging New Columbia Solar and financing partners) and coordinated approvals from DCHFA and lenders
- Submitted the project with NCS as part of the Solar for All 2019 program operated by the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) – ensuring that all energy will be provided to qualified households at no cost for 15 years
- Created an innovating onboarding system for residents to complete their applications as part of the DOEE 'Solar for All' program

Once DCRA and PEPCO approvals were received, the project was constructed in less than 6 months, using market-leading components to maximize the financial benefits of solar and to provide Standard Companies with the highest possible return for their roof space.

Customer Benefits

Zero Out Of Pocket

Construction time: 6 Months

Substantial Lease Revenue

Karl Unterlechner,
Chief Executive Officer,
SaveSolar

"SaveSolar worked with Standard Companies, an affordable housing developer with projects across the country, to lease the rooftops of this affordable housing complex and put them to work for the community in a whole new way. We hope building owners across D.C. will see this success story and recognize the financing and community potential that their unused rooftops hold."

‘Solar For All’ And Multi-Family Developers

The DOEE’s ‘Solar for All’ program aims to bring the benefits of solar energy to 100,000 low to moderate-income families in the District of Columbia. Since 2019, the program has been managed by the DC Sustainable Energy Utility (DCSEU).

“The DCSEU is proud to lead DOEE’s Solar for All efforts to bring long-term solar savings to families in the District that need it the most,” said Shelley Cohen, Director of Solar Programs at the DCSEU. “Projects like Fort Chaplin drive local economic development, create jobs for D.C. residents and bring us one step closer to meeting the District’s clean energy goals.”

For multi-family developers with income-qualified residents, SaveSolar is one of the few companies able to submit projects to the DCSEU and deliver the energy at no-cost to qualified District residents. SaveSolar is an active participant of the Solar for All program, having successfully submitted projects in 2018, 2019 and 2020 and having developed over 2.2 MWs of solar across the District.

We welcome discussions with developers to assess your project for inclusion as part of the program, and to leverage our proven experience for success.

SOLAR FOR ALL
A PROGRAM OF DC’S DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

Community Benefits

450 Customers - 50% Electricity Reduction for 15 Years

Anticipated Household Savings: $400 Per Year

Households Powered: 140

Derwin Straight,
Fort Chaplin resident

“SaveSolar came through with some real help that people are needing right now with coronavirus and all. I can’t imagine getting the same bill as last year but during this pandemic – you all came right on time."

Kaye Stern Properties

SOLAR FOR ALL

Fort Chaplin Park Apartments

SOLAR FOR ALL

St James Mutual Homes

SOLAR FOR ALL

About SaveSolar

SaveSolar is a Washington,D.C.-based organization that specializes in developing community solar assets. We work with building owners to finance and build solar assets, then compensate them with long-term revenue and generate that solar energy back into the utility. This energy is then provided at a discount to residential, low-income and community subscribers. Our mission is to help the District reach its renewable energy goals and to lower the cost of electricity.

The SaveSolar executive leadership team has over 60 years of combined experience in renewable energy markets in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United States. We have diversified experience across construction, finance, project management, technology and sustainability.

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If you would like to contact SaveSolar to discuss a project, please visit https://www.savesolar.us/rooftop-solar-lease/ to book an appointment, or call us at (202) 846-6928 to speak to one of our Community Project Specialists.

www.savesolar.us +1 (202) 846 6928 admin@savesolar.us

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