



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Julie Donovan
Habitat for Humanity Lake County, IL
847-623-1020 x 120
jdonovan@habitatlc.org
www.habitatlc.org

5/31/18

Solar Panels First on Habitat for Humanity Home in Illinois

New Trier High School and Go Green Wilmette partner to donate solar panels for Habitat for Humanity home in Waukegan

(WAUKEGAN May 31, 2018) — Habitat for Humanity Lake County is partnering with New Trier High School to provide the first solar panels on a Habitat for Humanity home in Illinois. The panels will provide reduced-cost electricity for the homeowner for the 30+ year life of the panels. The project will include approximately 14 panels resulting in a 4.2kW array. This will provide half to three-quarters of the energy needs for an average home this size.

Installation of the solar panels is Friday, June 1st at 1421 McAree Road in Waukegan, Illinois.

Annually New Trier senior class raises approximately \$100,000 through fundraisers to the funding to build one home with a low-income Habitat Partner Family. This year, the home is a 1200 square foot ranch in Waukegan.

Funding for the solar panels was raised by Go Green Wilmette in collaboration with Go Green Winnetka, Go Green Northfield, Go Green Glencoe and Go Green Kenilworth. They welcome additional donations to reach the \$20,000 needed to cover the cost of the installation.

The solar panels will be installed by Windfree who designed the system, obtained the materials and provided education and leadership to Habitat for Humanity for the project. Doug Snower, owner of Windfree said, "This project is an exciting collaboration with a school, a non-profit and an environmental organization."

The solar panels dovetail with our goal to build strength, stability, self-reliance and shelter in local communities. Energy-use is a large part of every homeowner's monthly payment and this will help them." said Julie Donovan, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity Lake County. "We are grateful to the five environmental organizations in the New Trier High School District 203 for their inspiration and leadership on this project."

"The solar panels are an interesting addition to our construction program", said Ted Ramai, Construction Manager of Habitat for Humanity Lake County. "We are learning more about solar products and installation and can educate the community as part of this build." Habitat homes meet Energy Star standards with high levels of insulation, and air sealing, and energy-efficient mechanical systems, windows and appliances along with low-VOC materials.

“We are excited that our students will build the 18th New Trier home with solar panels”, said Chris Pearson, Boys Senior Adviser, at New Trier High School “The students will learn more about solar power and carry that experience into their future.”

Beth Drucker, Executive Director of Go Green Wilmette and member of the New Trier Sustainability Committee said, “I look forward to this partnership because it will create a house with reduced on-going energy costs for the family. It will also raise awareness of options available to every homeowner to save money and the environment.”

About Habitat for Humanity

Habitat’s vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Habitat is committed to creating opportunities for individuals and families to thrive; to revitalizing neighborhoods and building communities; and to helping transform families through home ownership. We do this by making housing affordable to hardworking people without access to conventional financing and offer individuals a hand up, fueled by our belief in dignity, self-sufficiency, collaboration, and hope. Habitat for Humanity builds strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter.

Habitat is not a give-away program. Partner Families purchase their houses from Habitat for Humanity at affordable prices. In addition they invest 500 hours of their own labor on the construction of their home and in an intense education program focused on financial literacy and home and yard maintenance. Since 1989 Habitat for Humanity Lake County has served over 200 families with 1,000 individuals - through affordable housing solutions.

To learn more visit www.habitatlc.org 847-623-1020 Julie Donovan 847-623-1020
jdonovan@habitatlc.org

About New Trier High School

http://www.newtrier.k12.il.us/get_involved/sustainability/news/area_environmental_groups_fundraise_to_inst_all_solar_panels_on_new_trier_class_of_2018_habitat_for_humanity_house/

To learn more visit: www.newtrier.K12.il.us

Contact: Christopher Johnson 847-784-3408 johnsonc@newtrier.K12.il.us

About Go Green Wilmette

Go Green Wilmette was founded in 2006 in Wilmette, Illinois. Our mission is to raise environmental awareness, inspire people to take action, and create a more sustainable community. Go Green Wilmette works with residents, schools, the Park District, the Library, the Village, local businesses and nearby communities to achieve our goals. We organize campaigns and projects that make Wilmette a healthier place to live. We serve as a resource to the community and to other environmental organizations on the north shore. We founded Go Green Illinois in 2013. <https://www.gogreenillinois.org>

To learn more visit: www.gogreenwilmette.org Beth Drucker, Go Green Wilmette 847/910-3172

To learn more about solar technical details contact: Lisa Albrecht, Illinois Solar Energy Association 773/497-5472

About Windfree

Windfree Wind and Solar Energy Company was founded in 2009. Windfree collaborates with educational institutions to foster awareness about alternative sources of energy. We sell products and services related to sustainable and renewable energy and we continue to research the best available products, equipment and services required to put the power of wind and solar energy into the hands of schools, students and businesses in the area where we live.

To learn more visit: www.windfree.us

Contact: Doug Snower, 312-943-1500 doug@windfree.us