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A Decade of Mining the Sun: Solar Holler Celebrates 10 Years of Making Clean Energy Affordable for Appalachians

Lifeline Church Hosts Commemorative Event as their Solar Project Nears Completion

Princeton, WV - Solar Holler, recently named West Virginia's top residential and commercial solar contractor by Solar Power World, today brought together staff, customers, community leaders, and representatives of Lifeline Church to celebrate their 10th year of business in the Mountain State and beyond.

Solar Holler was born in Shepherdstown in 2013 and has since paved the way to energy savings for thousands of families and to a clean energy economy here in Appalachia. In a decade, the company has grown from just a few employees to approximately 110 and completed more than 1,400 installations totalling more than 15,000 kW of clean power. Their work has poured more than \$70 million into Appalachian economies.

Soon Lifeline Church will join the list of homeowners, businesses, and nonprofits that have found energy independence through Solar Holler. Given that the company got its start working with places of worship, completing their very first project at Shepherdstown Presbyterian, it seemed only fitting that this milestone be celebrated at the location of their largest and most recent church project to date.

Solar Holler Founder and CEO, Dan Conant, couldn't be prouder of how far the company has come, saying, "Over the past 10 years, we proved to the world that solar was exactly what the people of West Virginia wanted. We proved that solar is done best when you don't turn your back on the labor movement, and when you support American manufacturing. We built the first virtual power plant in America, and in telling that story, we swung the one vote that mattered for the biggest climate bill in world history. Because of that work and that bill, solar is now the cheapest source of power for nearly every nonprofit, school, municipality, utility, and homeowner in America. And because of that bill we're now in the midst of a Reindustrial Revolution in the Heartland. No other solar installation company can claim anything close to the impact we've had in the wider world."



Conant went on to say, "I'm incredibly proud of my amazing colleagues and grateful to our loyal customers, like Lifeline Church, for their trust and unrivaled support."

Today's celebration at Lifeline Church showcased the remarkable impact that solar energy can have on places of worship and their financial health. This 447.4 kW system, comprised of 1,078 panels, is projected to produce 537,318 kWh of clean energy each year. This will save the church an impressive \$5,586 in monthly utility costs, which equates to more than \$2.2 million over the 25 year lifetime of the system.

"The completion of the Lifeline Church Solar Project marks not only a significant milestone for our congregation but also for our community." Said Pastor J.B Hurt of Lifeline Church. "Solar Holler's dedication to creating sustainable energy solutions is a testament to their commitment to both environmental stewardship and the financial well-being of local communities. This project has not only lowered our energy costs but also serves as an example of how faith institutions can lead the way towards a greener and more responsible future."

Lifeline Church's solar system is projected to offset 99% of their utility needs. The impact of their clean energy production is the equivalent of removing 1,293 gas powered vehicles off the road for a whole year.

In addition to reflecting on Solar Holler's past ten years and celebrating the impressive installation at Lifeline Church, today's event offered a look at what's in store for the future of Solar Holler including its fast growing commercial arm of the business. Now with the Inflation Reduction Act's tax incentives and thanks to Power Purchase Agreements like the one at Lifeline Church, solar is more attainable to businesses and nonprofits than ever before.

On the residential side, the company's new Solar Lease offering was touted as an important first-of-its-kind option for lower income West Virginians hoping to benefit from savings offered by solar. The Southern Coalfields Solar Collaborative was also mentioned as a notable benchmark. Solar Holler's Collaboratives were designed with efficiencies in mind and encourage communities to go solar together with a group discount. This one, available to residents of Boone, Logan, Wyoming, Mingo, McDowell, Mercer, & Raleigh Counties, will help deliver solar to the heart of coal country - a core geography in Solar Holler's mission to reforge Appalachia's legacy of powering the nation with clean energy that empowers our people and renews our communities.

According to Conant, the future of the company is bright. "I'm not sure what the next ten years will hold," he said, "but there's a lot of solar left to build here in Appalachia and we're just getting started."



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Solar Holler is bringing the next generation of energy production to our ancient mountains, and strengthening our communities with union employment. Solar Holler relentlessly pursues innovative approaches that bring solar within reach of all Appalachians, starting with low-interest financing options with no upfront cost. Solar Holler has helped dozens of businesses, nonprofits, and churches, and hundreds of homes go solar across West Virginia, southern Ohio, and eastern Kentucky.