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Solar Holler and Coalfield Development Flip the Switch on 294 Solar Panels

Old Corbin Factory Now Powered with Solar

Largest Solar System Powering a West Virginia Nonprofit is Live

Huntington, WV - Solar Holler and Coalfield Development will be flipping the switch on one of the largest solar installations in West Virginia. Two hundred ninety-four solar panels have been installed on the sawtooth roof of West Edge, the old Corbin factory, powering Coalfield Development's redevelopment of the historic building.

"We believed that if any place deserved a pivotal investment in the next wave of energy, it would be the region and people that have historically powered the world. And now, today, we are doing just that!" said [Jacob Hannah](#), **Conservation Coordinator at Coalfield Development**. "The end results speak for themselves - the array will produce enough power to offset the usage of all the operations within West Edge and save Coalfield Development over \$135,000."

A grant from the Honnold Foundation helped fund the project. The remaining cost was financed through Solar Holler's nonprofit program, leaving Coalfield Development with a fixed monthly solar service payment. Solar Holler will own and maintain the array.

"At Solar Holler, we continue to reach for new solutions to make solar affordable and accessible for all Appalachians," said **Dan Conant, Founder and CEO of Solar Holler**. "Through our solar financing, we're helping homes, businesses, and community nonprofits switch to solar and lower their energy costs in Year 1 of the project."

While the West Edge solar array is now one of the largest in the state, mapping technology shows the potential for hundreds of similar rooftop projects within the city of Huntington alone.

"Today we're celebrating a project that will deliver over \$135,000 in savings to a local redevelopment organization," said **Huntington Mayor Steve Williams**. "I'm excited to see more and more local businesses take advantage of solar and the savings it can deliver. What this West Edge project shows is that we can help local businesses free up thousands, even tens of thousands of dollars, to invest in and strengthen their businesses."

Dozens of Solar Holler and Coalfield Development employees attended the celebration today, a visual reminder of the tradesmen and women who worked to develop and install the West Edge array. Alongside the West Edge installation, Coalfield Development incorporated a level-100 certificate course for a class of 15 local trainees to learn the foundations of different renewable energy technologies.

“The growth of solar is creating new opportunities for our electricians and showing young folks here in the Huntington area that there are good jobs right here at home. It’s good to be a part of. We’re hopeful Congress passes an infrastructure package that’s good for solar and really jumpstarts the industry here in Appalachia. We’d love to see more projects just like West Edge, keeping electricians busy and delivering all kinds of benefits to our community.” said **Greg Spears, the Assistant Business Manager at IBEW Local 317.**

A provision in the House version of the federal infrastructure package, currently under debate in Congress, would open the solar tax credit to nonprofits like Coalfield Development.

“Delivering solar - and utility savings - to nonprofits should be something we can do far more easily and far more often. We’re excited to see that Congress is currently considering an extension of the solar tax credit to include community nonprofits and places of worship, and we encourage them to make it happen!” said Conant. “Expanding solar could mean hundreds if not thousands of new jobs for West Virginia.”

“I have always said that we must use all of our domestic resources – coal, oil, natural gas, hydro, wind, solar – everything. The West Edge Solar Array is a tremendous opportunity for training and job creation in this field. This project is a testament to everything that can be accomplished when we work together to revitalize our historical structures and communities, and I look forward to seeing the continued growth of the West Edge factory.” said **Senator Joe Manchin**

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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.

Coalfield Development is focusing on rebuilding the Appalachian economy through social enterprise creation, job training, and community-based real-estate development. Inspiring the courage to grow, activating the creativity to innovate, and cultivating communities of opportunity in central Appalachia through incubating and investing in employment-based social enterprises, facilitating professional, personal, and academic development for people facing barriers to employment, and leading and collaborating on community-based revitalization projects.