

Title: Advancing Agrivoltaic Solutions for Farmers (AASF) Partnership Plan

Official Team Name: Clean Energy Solutions Group

Lead Organization: Saundra Johnson Austin, EdD, Institute for Equitable Development, Inc.

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**Location of primary benefits:** Monticello, Florida 32344-0310, Jefferson County, 2,589 population per 2022 U.S. Census data

**Short Description:** The mission of Advancing Agrivoltaic Solutions for Farmers (AASF) Partnership Plan is to develop partnership agreements that enable the refinement and construction of agrivoltaic designs for Black farmers. We will leverage the agrivoltaic designs from the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) Technical Assistance Program to meet the demands of Black farmers in seven underserved counties throughout Florida.

Our vision is to create regional economic impact in rural and remote communities using agrivoltaics. In the first 12 months, our goal is to create memorandums of understanding with Black farmers and other key partners to implement multiple agrivoltaic projects in seven counties in central and northern Florida.

We intend to achieve economic impact by executing the following tasks: (1) conduct education and outreach to Black farmers and other key partners to increase awareness of the benefits of renewable energy and agrivoltaic solutions; (2) expand the team of core members to include agrivoltaic experts, academic and financial institutions- to advance capacity and partnerships; and (3) develop agrivoltaic project models that can be replicated throughout the targeted counties of Gadsden, Hernando, Hillsborough, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, and Pinellas.

Our team consists of the Institute for Equitable Development, Inc., Seed Time Harvest Farms, the Black Farmers Collaborative, Inc., PowerHouse Energy 360, and Veaux Solutions and we each bring over 30 years of experience. We spent 18-months assessing the needs of Black farmers and community members throughout seven counties in Florida. As a result, we've built trusted relationships and better understand farming community priorities.

Link to the 3-minute, online video pitch: https://youtu.be/CrZHKG2KFDY

## **Key Project Members:**

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