



**CALIFORNIA DELIVERS**  
CLEAN AIR. GOOD JOBS. ENERGY CHOICES.

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## **NEW STATE FUNDING DELIVERS CLEAN ENERGY AND LOWER ELECTRIC BILLS FOR SOUTH LOS ANGELES RESIDENTS**

*Climate investments from AB 32 help homeowner achieve 80% cut in electric bills*

LOS ANGELES – Community leaders gathered in the Willowbrook neighborhood today to witness a homeowner’s installation of a new solar power system thanks to California’s clean energy and climate law, AB 32.

As a result of today’s installation, homeowner Rose Pinkney is expected to save 80% on her electric bill – estimated at \$39,000 in savings over the next 30 years.

Proceeds generated by the state’s AB 32 cap and trade program are part of California’s Climate Investments to reduce contributions to climate change – from solar panel installations to energy efficiency upgrades. The programs also provide other co-benefits to some of the state’s neighborhoods hardest hit by pollution, including job training for community members seeking new careers in the state’s fast-growing clean energy industry. This particular program also is designed to help low-income residents save money on their electric bills.

Rose Pinkney believes that solar is the way of the future, as well as being committed to doing her part to address climate change. “I would definitely recommend this to my neighbors. When there are problems in the neighborhood, they come and knock on my door. Now when they see this on my house, they will come to my door and ask me about how they can go solar,” said Rose Pinkney, who is very involved in her community. “To me, going solar is a way to give back to my community, to provide green energy.”

The clean energy economy in California is setting records nationally, with employment in the solar industry having increased 86% since 2010. Job trainees recruited and trained by the nonprofit organization GRID Alternatives completed the two-day solar installation today.

“With GRID’s model, these investments have a triple benefit for the community,” said Michael Kadish, Executive Director of GRID Alternatives Greater Los Angeles. “Clean, locally produced energy; utility cost savings that families can use for basic expenses, and hands-on training in an industry that is adding jobs at a rate of 20 percent a year.”

GRID Alternatives received Climate Investments funding through the California Department of Community Services and Development's (CSD) Low Income Weatherization Program to install solar panels on more than 1,600 homes in disadvantaged communities statewide. CSD was funded with \$75 million in cap-and-trade auction proceeds in the State's 2014-15 budget to install renewable and energy efficient measures on low-income homes located in the state's disadvantaged communities.

A significant portion of the funds from the AB 32 cap and trade program are targeted to communities that traditionally have been among the hardest hit by pollution and are home to some of the state's most economically disadvantaged residents. The [programs](#), which have just started to be implemented, are intended to help reduce conventional air pollutants as well as those that contribute to global warming. In addition to solar and renewable activities, they cover a wide range of programs from improved transit and other clean transportation options to efficient, affordable housing and water conservation. More than \$800 million is expected to be allocated before the end of June, with another \$2.2 billion slated to be spent before July 2016.

"Today's installation of clean solar energy on the Pinkney home demonstrates that California's climate policies are delivering valuable benefits to our local residents," said Fabiola Lao, Deputy Policy Director of the Coalition for Clean Air. "We urge the Legislature and Governor to increase funding for pollution-fighting programs in our most disadvantaged communities."

Today's event was organized by California Delivers, a coalition of hundreds of California businesses, public health professionals, workers, public officials, community and faith leaders and individuals focused on protecting, implementing and extending the benefits of AB 32 beyond 2020. For more information, visit [www.cadelivers.org](http://www.cadelivers.org).

GRID Alternatives is a nonprofit organization that makes renewable energy technology and job training accessible to low income communities. More than 20,000 people have received solar job training through GRID. [www.gridalternatives.org](http://www.gridalternatives.org)

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