



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Solar Plus Storage Comes to Coney Island

*Solar One, in partnership with the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR), the New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) and other community organizations, are pleased to announce the completion of a new resilient power hub with solar panels and battery backup systems at the Coney Island branch of the Brooklyn Public Library.*

**Brooklyn, NY (November 21, 2021)** – A ribbon cutting ceremony was held last week atop the roof of the Coney Island Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library to celebrate the completion of a new solar installation and resilient power hub complete with storage and backup systems.

This project is part of a \$4 million initiative to install renewable energy systems at four of the library's branches and seven other community facilities in both Brooklyn and the Bronx. In addition to the Coney Island branch, the solar power and storage upgrades will be installed at the Gerritsen Beach, Kings Highway, and Mill Basin branches of the Brooklyn Public Library as well as the seven community facilities listed here:

- The Block Institute in Gravesend/Bensonhurst,
- Kings Bay Youth Organization in Sheepshead Bay,
- Birch Family Services in Canarsie,
- Flatlands Volunteer Ambulance Corps,
- Throggs Neck Volunteer Ambulance Corps,
- Gerritsen Beach Volunteer Fire Department, and
- Villa Maria Academy in the East Bronx.

In part, the purpose of this project is to help New York State reach its stated goal of reducing carbon emissions 85 percent by 2050, as outlined in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, while at the same time helping underserved and marginalized urban communities to develop resilience in the face of climate change related events like Superstorm Sandy.

The libraries and other facilities listed above serve as community hubs and assist with response and recovery operations during power outages and other climate related emergencies. During outages, these solar panels and battery backup systems will provide uninterrupted power supply while also feeding energy back to the local grid. Upgrades at these sites are expected to be completed by February 2022 and will generate 345kW of power, roughly the equivalent of removing 11 tons of carbon

emissions from the atmosphere each year, while the battery storage will hold 583kWh of power, equivalent to the power needs of hundreds of households.

Angelica Ramdhari, Director of Resilient Solar at Solar One, said "Today, we celebrate two things—the launch of resilience hubs, where renewable energy at neighborhood institutions will give communities the power they need to recover from blackouts, and a new generation of lithium-ion energy storage systems in New York City, a critical piece of distributed energy infrastructure that has been missing from our grid. These projects could not have been achieved without collaboration from a wide range of stakeholders, including the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery, the New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services, Brooklyn Public Library, FDNY Tech Management, and DOB OTCR."

Assemblymember Mathylde Frontus said, "We learned during Superstorm Sandy just how vulnerable Southern Brooklyn and vital community resources like the Coney Island Library are to the devastating impacts of climate change. This investment by the State will help ensure that our libraries and other neighborhood hubs can remain open and to help residents access assistance during emergencies and following significant storms. This step is yet another positive one towards the State's goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2050. It will also strengthen our neighborhood, so I thank Governor Hochul and her administration for their dedication to helping Brooklyn rebuild and become more sustainable than ever."

"Coney Island Library will serve as a refuge for the community in superstorms to come, and as a reminder we dare not accept such storms as inevitable," said Linda E. Johnson, President and CEO of Brooklyn Public Library. "We are grateful to Solar One, the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery and the New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services for reducing our carbon emissions and building a more sustainable city."

### **About Solar One**

Solar One is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization whose mission is to design and deliver innovative education, training, and technical assistance that fosters sustainability and resiliency in diverse urban environments. We empower learning that changes the way people think about energy, sustainability, and resilience by engaging and educating a diverse set of stakeholders and beneficiaries. Our programs help individuals and communities explore new ways of living and working that are more adaptive to a changing world.

### **About GOSR**

Established in June 2013, GOSR coordinates statewide recovery efforts for Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene, and Tropical Storm Lee. Through its NY Rising Housing Recovery, Small Business, Community Reconstruction, Infrastructure, and Rebuild by Design programs, GOSR invests \$4.5 billion in federal Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery funding to better prepare New York for extreme weather events. More information about GOSR and its programs is available at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/>.

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