First Solar

News Release

Desert Center Receives $85,000 from Desert Sunlight Fund for Community Projects

Local Advisory Board awards grants for new playground, laptops for school, and new books and improvements to library

Desert Center, Calif., (February 06, 2013) –On Tuesday, the Desert Sunlight Fund Advisory Board, made up of seven community members, awarded over $85,000 in grants from the First Solar Desert Sunlight Fund to three local non-profit organizations. The grants will provide funds for four projects that will directly benefit the local community. Of the original $350,000 that First Solar committed to Desert Center in mid-2011, $249,200 remains to be distributed over the next several years.

"The Desert Sunlight Fund grants will help revitalize our community by supporting youth recreation and education, community programs and events, and conservation initiatives," said Travis Rye, Advisory Board Chairman and local firefighter. "We are excited to award this round of community grants, and look forward to seeing the benefits they will bring to the families in our community."

Eagle Mountain/Desert Center Church of Nazarene, in partnership with the local County Services Area, was awarded $64,000 for a new playground with a shade structure just outside the Lake Tamarisk Clubhouse, as well as $6,000 to promote fitness with Wii stations for those of all ages at the clubhouse.

Eagle Mountain School received $7,500 to purchase laptops and related training for all students and teachers. This grant will help prepare students for high school, college, and careers by allowing them to develop their computer and internet research skills.

The Desert Center Chapter of Friends of the Desert Libraries was awarded just over $8,300 to upgrade the local library with new books, electronics, furniture, and to provide a performer for children's programs. These resources will help increase attendance, enhance programs, and better serve the needs of the community.

The Desert Sunlight Fund Advisory Board is still looking for community members and nonprofits to apply for the remaining $249,200 in grant funds. About a quarter of the funds are distributed each year through 2015. The board's goal is to help fund local nonprofits to further their efforts to enhance and develop the community.

"First Solar is committed to being a good neighbor," said Laura Abram, First Solar's Director of Sustainability and Community Affairs. "I am pleased to see that Desert Center residents will now be able to benefit from the updated library, new play space, and school laptops. And I look forward to seeing additional deserving causes awarded in the years ahead."

In May of 2011, First Solar gave $5,000 checks to three local groups: Desert Center Unified School District, Friends of the Desert Center Library, and Lake Tamarisk Residents Association.

Desert Sunlight Solar Farm, the project First Solar is building, operating, and maintaining, will support California's requirement to provide one third of its electricity from renewable resources. The 550 MW utility-scale solar farm will provide enough clean, affordable, sustainable energy to power about 160,000 California homes and displace more than 300,000 metric tons of CO_2 greenhouse gas emissions per year – the equivalent of taking almost 60,000 cars off the road.

About First Solar, Inc.

First Solar is a leading global provider of comprehensive photovoltaic (PV) solar systems which use its advanced thin-film modules. The company's integrated power plant solutions deliver an economically attractive alternative to fossil-fuel electricity generation today. From raw material sourcing through end-of-life module collection and recycling, First Solar's renewable energy systems protect and enhance the environment. For more information about First Solar, please visit www.firstsolar.com.

For First Solar Investors

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