



# First Solar Community Giving Fund

## of the Greater Toledo Community Foundation

### Civic Engagement and Environmental Impact Grants & Module Donation Program

#### Guidelines for Grant Applications

First Solar is a leading global provider of comprehensive photovoltaic (PV) solar systems which use its advanced module and system technology. The company's integrated power plant solutions deliver an economically attractive alternative to fossil-fuel electricity generation. First Solar manufactures solar modules with an advanced semiconductor technology and provides comprehensive photovoltaic system solutions. By continually driving down manufacturing costs, First Solar is delivering an economically viable alternative to fossil fuel generation today. From raw material sourcing through end-of-life collection and recycling, First Solar is focused on creating cost-effective, renewable energy solutions that protect and enhance the environment. [www.firstsolar.com](http://www.firstsolar.com)

The First Solar Community Giving Fund of the Greater Toledo Community Foundation seeks to improve the quality of life in communities around the world. Emphasis is placed on programs that support the First Solar Corporate giving values which include: focusing on "green" and STEM education initiatives, access to clean energy and water in underserved areas, and furthering the development of innovative and sustainable technologies. Priority will be given to organizations located in and serving residents of the United States, India, Malaysia and Vietnam.

The Fund seeks to support projects and services that support these giving values through Civic Engagement and Environmental Impact grants that make a difference in the communities they serve. Requests for these impact grants must exceed \$10,000 (USD) to receive consideration. Requests under \$10,000 should be directed to the First Solar local office nearest the grant seeker. In principle, requests should be in English.

Separate from the Civic Engagement and Environmental Impact program, applicants can also request a donation of modules and systems from First Solar. Module applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with an installation technician before submitting the application to ensure the project is feasible. Applicants can also request a monetary donation to assist with installation. Typically, this type of financial support has been distributed in the range of \$10,000 to \$15,000 (USD).

Grants will only be awarded to a) nonprofit, charitable organizations that are designated as having tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Service code or b) organizations capable of demonstrating the ability to fulfill the charitable purpose of a grant award. The Fund may limit the number of requests accepted by any one requestor at its discretion.

## Grant application process

Letters of Intent are carefully reviewed by the Foundation's professional staff and presented to the grant review committee of the First Solar Community Giving Fund for consideration. Organizations that advance for further consideration may be asked to attend a virtual meeting to provide additional details regarding their proposal.

Letters of Intent will be accepted two times annually through the Greater Toledo Community Foundation online application portal. The deadline dates to submit are **February 1 and August 1**. Proposals must be received through the online system by 11:59 p.m. (EST) of the deadline in order to be considered for funding.

## Impact Funds LOI contents

To be considered for funding, organizations must submit a Letter of Intent, which states the specific nature of the project, the goals and objectives to be achieved, and the population that will benefit. Proposals should clearly delineate the amount of funding requested and how funds will be used.

## Module Donation Program LOI contents

In addition to the Impact Funds LOI contents, to be considered for a module donation organizations must submit a proposal that contains the following components:

- Provide information regarding the proposed use of the modules and the requested grant funds.
- Explain in sufficient details the proposed plan, including but not limited to the size of the proposed project (KW or MW) as well as a timeline for installation of the needed modules and the proposed maintenance of the modules. Physical space constraints as well as Balance of Systems (BoS) needs should be explained as well.
- Provide information regarding how the proposed module donation would further the mission of the applicant organization, specifically identifying the ways in which it would support one of First Solar's areas of emphasis.
- If grant funds are being requested, specify the use of those grant funds and identify any sources of in-kind support for the project.
- Module technical information and history of previous solar module installations.

## Grant Restrictions

Through this funding opportunity, the First Solar Community Giving Fund will not consider requests that seek:

- Support for sectarian activities of religious organizations.
- Financial assistance with the annual campaign of an organization.
- Requests for scholarships.

## **Additional documentation required from approved grantees**

Approved grantees will be required to submit documentation to the Foundation before a grant can be awarded. These items are not required for the initial Letter of Intent. It is preferred that the documents be submitted in English.

Grantee organizations with principal headquarters located in the United States must submit the following due diligence documents:

- 1) The names and affiliations of the applicant organization's board of directors.
- 2) Brief background/history of the requesting organization, including: when and how the organization was established; its mission/purpose; accomplishments to date; and a listing of all current programs and services.
- 3) The organization's most recent audit. If audited financial statements are not available, the unaudited income and expense statement and balance sheet must be provided.
- 4) The organization's current operating budget.
- 5) Copy of the applicant's tax exemption letter from the Internal Revenue Service.

Grantee organizations with principal headquarters located outside the United States must submit the following due diligence documents:

- 1) The names and affiliations of the applicant organization's board of directors.
- 2) A brief description of past and current programs of the organization. The grantee should note other charitable activities that have been conducted.
- 3) The date the organization was founded and a description of the institutional character of and function of the proposed grantee (educational institution, research institution, etc.).
- 4) A listing of other foundation grants that the grantee organization has received, including the amount, purpose and date when the grant was awarded. Note: If this list is in excess of 25 grants, the grantee should contact Greater Toledo Community Foundation.
- 5) A copy of the charter and/or bylaws of the organization. If English copies of these documents are available, they should be submitted.

**For additional information or to discuss a possible submission, please contact:**

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