

Foundation Matters

Winter 2020



Anchored by Dana's Toledo Driveline facility, the Overland Solar Project is transforming the former Jeep site and will positively impact the surrounding neighborhoods by providing funding for workforce development, job training and neighborhood improvements.

Overland Solar Project Shines Brightly

One of the most innovative and collaborative projects in the history of northwest Ohio is now underway, poised to produce renewable energy with the goal of supporting neighborhood reinvestment and creating resources to meet community needs. This project will provide funding for workforce development, job training, neighborhood improvements and more. And it all begins with the power of the sun.

The project centers on a solar array located in Toledo's Overland Industrial Park. Powered by First Solar's American-made thin film module technology, the solar array will provide clean, renewable energy that Dana Inc. will purchase for its 300,000-square-foot Toledo Driveline facility, which is also located in the park.

In turn, Greater Toledo Community Foundation has created a nonprofit entity to own the solar field in conjunction with the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority. By selling the electricity to Dana, the nonprofit's revenue stream will be reinvested through grants to local nonprofits working to improve the surrounding neighborhood. Hundreds of thousands of dollars will be invested into the neighboring Overland communities.

"This type of collaboration among businesses, government and agency partners to deliver a sustainable community investment is unprecedented," said Keith Burwell, president of Great Toledo Community Foundation. "The partners' commitment to build a world-class solar-power

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GEM, Inc. employees Joe Rybka and Ryan Schmitt install solar panels on the Overland site.

Overland Solar Project *(continued from page 1)*

generation site will provide funds that will be reinvested in the surrounding neighborhoods far into the future."

James Kamsickas, president and CEO of Dana said the project is much more than a solar project. "This unique collaboration allows Dana to capitalize on all the benefits of renewable energy while also making a significant economic impact on the residential neighborhoods surrounding our facility."

The highly collaborative project includes support from the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority which owns the land at the Overland Industrial Park and leases to the Foundation for \$1 per year; First Solar, which donated the solar modules; Yaskawa Solectria Solar, which donated newly-designed inverters; and engineering and construction services from GEM Energy, JDRM Engineering, Kokosing Construction, the Mannik Smith Group and TTL Associates.

Impact at a Glance

The Overland Solar Project will invest in a geographic area that has struggled since the former Jeep Plant's closing. More than 32% of the residents now live below the poverty level.

The solar array is expected to generate more than \$320,000 in year one.

The array will generate enough power to reduce carbon dioxide by more than 3,000 tons—which is equivalent to removing 465 cars from the roadways each year.

Since the solar panels were donated and have an average lifespan of 25 years, this equals a potential \$8,000,000 infusion for the surrounding neighborhoods.

Mark and Rose Makulinski, GTCF fundholders, offered a Challenge Match of up to \$500,000 for the Overland Solar Initiative, instantly doubling any project contributions.

Support the Overland Solar Project

Greater Toledo Community Foundation thanks the many businesses who have donated over \$2 million in materials and labor for the Overland Solar Project. Financial assistance is still needed for uncovered costs. If you or your business would like to be part of this collaborative initiative, please contact Keith Burwell at the Foundation, 419.241.5049 or Keith@toledocf.org.