



Community Grant Requests

Apex Clean Energy and the Blazing Star Solar team aim to be active community participants and support local efforts to build healthy communities within the Blazing Star Solar project area. Our community grant program is one way for us to give back while partnering with local people and organizations to support programs aligned with our four core values of building healthy communities, promoting education, economic development, and environmental sustainability.

If you are interested in applying for a community grant, you may do so online by visiting www.blazingstarsolar.com/grant. You may also download the application and submit a completed request in writing to info@blazingstarsolar.com. These guidelines apply to both monetary and in-kind product and service donations.

Application Content:

Please be as detailed as possible when filling out your application, and remember to address each of the following points:

- The requesting organization's name, address, phone number, email, and contact person responsible for the request.
- A synopsis of the organization's mission and history.
- A description of the project to be funded including the amount of support being requested, and total budget for the project.
- Details regarding the benefit to be realized should the grant be awarded including demonstration of a positive impact on the communities or residents living and working in Allegan County.
- An explanation of how this grant will promote our vision to support local efforts to build healthy communities (see funding categories below).
- Disclosure of the name and title of key leaders within the organization that are sponsoring or advocating for the project to be funded so that we have accurate information to ensure the request complies with Apex Clean Energy's ethics guidelines.
- Proof of business or organization registration with the IRS, or qualifying non-profit status, including a tax-exempt determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service if a non-profit organization.

Grant requests are considered on a rolling basis and applicants will be notified of a decision within six weeks.

Grant Funding Goals:

Highest priority will be afforded to Community Grant requests that:

- Are complete, accurate and submitted within an above listed funding window that allows for at least six (6) weeks prior to need.
- Clearly support identified building blocks of a healthy community that align with our core values. These include:
 - Safe and Healthy Communities
 - Programs that support good government, open communication, citizen resources, and/or enhance the quality of life in the community. Applicants must demonstrate how the program or event contributes to these social goals.
 - Community and Economic Development
 - Apex Clean Energy supports and encourages the entrepreneurial spirit. It is part of our mission to serve as a catalyst for economic growth and development within the communities where we operate.
 - Environmental Sustainability
 - Programs that possess a strong link to environmental revitalization, sustainability, or education thereof, empower residents to be stewards of the environment, and/or encourage partnerships to address environmental concerns and sustainability. Participating organizations must have a credible record of success in environmental performance.
 - Promoting Education
 - Programs that support educational institutions, the advancement of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), and training programs for careers in the solar industry. This may include curriculum development, literacy, school readiness, and other initiatives that help students grow into young leaders. Vocational training institutions that help build a skilled workforce are also included and encouraged to apply.

If your Community Grant request is approved:

- Grant recipients must be willing to work with Apex Clean Energy to submit a press release to local media outlets announcing the award and relevant details or highlights of your specific project.
- Grant recipients must, to the best of their ability, track attendees/participants in any program that benefits from the grant and report any outcome data obtained because of the grant.
- Grant recipients must take pictures or video of the event for which they are awarded funding. These pictures are to be included in the final report, and may be featured on websites, or in material pertaining to Apex Clean Energy's community grant program.
- Grant recipients must submit a simple follow-up report within three months after an event, or one year following funding distribution, in the case of ongoing programs. Reports should include general project outcomes and results, as well as any relevant supplemental materials produced in conjunction with, or because of, the grant. This should include event photographs, printed materials, newsletters, digital ads, etc.

Please email applications and follow-up reports to info@blazingstarsolar.com. If you have questions about the program, please email the address above.