



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Country's Largest Urban Solar Field In Our Own Back Yard**

*Solar field in West Pullman provides example of solar project to the Illinois Smart Solar Alliance*

**CHICAGO, IL** – Members of a newly formed energy group got a firsthand look at what energy may look like in the years to come. Individuals from the Illinois Smart Solar Alliance, a group of community leaders, businesses and organizations from across Northern Illinois, toured Exelon City Solar on Wednesday, August 3. The field, located in West Pullman, is the largest urban solar field in the United States.

As part of its mission, the Alliance seeks to educate members on issues regarding solar. The solar field provided an ideal backdrop for members to learn more about solar energy and how it can be used in Illinois communities.

“As we try to find ways for our city and state to become more energy efficient, this field is the perfect example of what we need to do. The Illinois Smart Solar Alliance is identifying locations and funding opportunities to bring solar to our neighborhoods. The information we gained at the tour will allow us to educate our neighbors on what solar can mean for them,” said Alliance member Dr. G. Avi Arrington from AGREE USA Solar and Renewable Energy Solutions. AGREE USA focuses on engaging underserved communities across Chicago like Englewood and West Pullman.

The field, which had been vacant for 30 years, was completed in 2010. It utilizes a former 4,100-acre brownfield. Exelon removed pollutants and safety hazards from the site in order to make the land usable again. The 32,292 solar photovoltaic (PV) panels generate enough energy to power up to 1,500 homes each year. The clean energy generated by Exelon City Solar displaces more than 30 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions per year - the equivalent of taking more than 2,500 cars off the road.

The Illinois Smart Solar Alliance has hosted regular meetings over the past few months, and the tour marked the first official group outing. Members will tour other locations that utilize solar panels and are models of energy efficient structures in the months to come. The Alliance will continue to identify

opportunities for solar projects and will keep the dialogue going on how to grow solar in a way that allows all citizens to participate in advancing Illinois' green economy.

For more information about the Illinois Smart Solar Alliance, its mission, or ways to get involved, visit the Alliance's website at [IllinoisSmartSolarAlliance.com](http://IllinoisSmartSolarAlliance.com).

**About The Illinois Smart Solar Alliance**

The Illinois Smart Solar Alliance is a group of organizations and individuals who seek to grow solar energy in Illinois. They aim to bring solar power into neighborhoods responsibly to ensure that the growth of this important resource benefits all communities. Committed to education, community engagement and solar policies that benefit all of us, they seek to grow Illinois' clean energy future and ensure the path to a greener tomorrow.

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