**U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)  
Clean Energy to Communities (C2C) Program**

Summary of Technical Assistance (TA) Support

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| Icon  Description automatically generatedBuildings |
| Icon  Description automatically generatedClean Power |
| Climate Mitigation and Resilience |
| Cross-Sectoral Justice |
| A picture containing text, clipart  Description automatically generatedJobs and Economic Development |
| Icon  Description automatically generatedMobility |

**Plains, Georgia**

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From August 2023 through May 2024, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) provided technical assistance (TA) to the Paragon Cooperative in Plains, Georgia. They were also selected as a pilot community for Expert Match Plus and received up to 140 hours of TA compared to the standard 60 hours received by other communities. Assistance provided included:

* Techno-economic Modeling and Analysis: Estimating (1) the cost of solar photovoltaics (PV) and battery storage and selecting a rate schedule for the Paragon Cooperative’s newly occupied buildings, and (2) how PV and battery costs might increase for a resilient system
* Agrivoltaics Configuration: Analyzing and discussing various agrivoltaics scenarios and metrics, as well as design and configuration tradeoffs for Paragon Cooperative’s farming sites
* Load Profile Modeling: Using Comstock to model potential load at the cooperative’s newly occupied building, which is a 30,000-ft2 former secondary school.

 Impact

The analysis provided informed ongoing agrivoltaics deployment efforts and clarified the potential role of solar plus storage in providing resilience benefits and cost savings to its core community buildings. The representative from Paragon stated the following in response to the technical assistance they received: “Outstanding work. Technical assistance helped confirm that this idea is technically feasible, in terms of solar plus storage, paired with agrivoltaics.”

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**Background**

Ann Arbor is a city of approximately 122,000 people located in southeast Michigan. The city and its residents are leaders in sustainability and climate action. Their A2ZERO Climate Action Plan outlines their just transition pathway to community-wide carbon neutrality by 2030. With equity as a focus, they are implementing strategies to improve home energy efficiency (EE) and electrify appliances. Toward this, the city wants to explore community geothermal heating and cooling to serve a variety of building types including rental and affordable housing. The city has applied to DOE’s Geothermal Heating and Cooling Design and Deployment program and garnered the support of City Council to pursue these projects, but they need to understand the concept’s feasibility in order to make a “go, no-go” decision.

The Paragon Cooperative is a rural, nonprofit farming cooperative with equity goals grounded in sustainability, farming, and housing.

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Description automatically generated with low confidence Expert Match Team

**Alexandra Kramer, then Sika Gadzanku**  
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**Aaron Rose**  
REopt Expert, NREL

**James McCall**  
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C2C Expert Match Program Manager, NREL

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**Dionne Henderson**  
Board President

For more information, visit:  
**energy.gov/eere/clean-energy-communities-program**

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