

## Partner Overview: Coalfield Development Corporation

As the #1 coal producing state in Appalachia, West Virginia has largely been ignored as an investment opportunity for renewables. Even though coal-fired electric power plants accounted for 92% of West Virginia's electricity net generation in 2018<sup>1</sup>, West Virginia communities are struggling as the coal industry shrinks, and people are laid off.

## **Organization Overview:**

Coalfield Development Corporation is committed to sustainability and job creation in their community, and are pursuing a bold vision for energy resilience in Appalachia. A community-based social enterprise incubator, Coalfield runs a range of workforce development and educational programs for community members and unemployed coal miners who are facing barriers to new employment. Through the social enterprises that Coalfield helps incubate, they provide workforce development opportunities ranging from art and woodworking to solar and sustainable food systems.



## **Project Summary:**

At the <u>West Edge Factory</u> in Wayne, West Virginia (population 1,400), Coalfield is creating jobs for out-of-work coal miners and their children. It is here that they will collaborate with one of their social

enterprise partners, Solar Holler, to install a large-scale solar array which will provide for all of their on-site energy needs. During the installation, Solar Holler will provide significant on-site job training for 6 - 8 interested trainees. Coalfield will also leverage the installation as a training and education resource for their sustainable energy/solar energy workforce development program. Additionally, this installation will serve as an educational tool for Coalfield's new and existing enterprises, partners, and communities, demonstrating the viability of solar in Appalachia.



**Total Award Amount:** \$100,000 Contributing Donors: 3M - \$25,000

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