

**I. CHESTER  
COMMUNITY**

**GRANT PROPOSAL GUIDELINES**

**COUNTY  
FOUNDATION**

**GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET**

**One page only.** This page will be shared electronically with Grant Panel Members & Fund Advisors.

Note: If Philanthropy Network's Common Grant Application is used, CCCF's **Summary Sheet MUST accompany application.**

To obtain an electronic version of this application, visit [www.chescocf.org](http://www.chescocf.org)

**Date 9/12/2022**

**Contact Information**

Organization Name: Solar CITIES, Inc.  
Address: 973 Font Road, Glenmoore, PA 19343  
Phone: 610-745-4403  
Website: <https://solarcities.solutions/>  
Year Incorporated: 2015 in PA  
FEIN: 47-4365279

ED/CEO Name: Janice Kelsey  
ED/CEO E-mail: Janice.SolarCITIES@gmail.com  
Board Chair Name: Thomas H. Culhane, PhD  
Board Chair Approval (check here):   
Primary Contact Name: Janice Kelsey  
Primary Contact E-mail: (see above)

**Organization Information:**

**Field/s of Interest:**

Arts, Culture & Humanities       Environment/Animal Welfare       Education  
 Health       Human Services       Religion

**Mission:**

The mission of Solar CITIES is to bring free, clean burning fuel and nutrient dense fertilizer to people locally and globally through our biogas education programs.

**Geographic Area Served** (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served):

All of Chester County and surrounding counties. Our international outreach impacts communities in Australia, Cameroon, Canada, Ghana, Iraq, Israel, Kenya, Palestine, Panama, Peru, Sierra Leone, and Tanzania. Recent communications of need from South Africa, Tunisia and Ukraine. Because we produce many online open-source resources, our reach is actually exponentially greater than this. What we do locally impacts globally.

**Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:**

Locally, we take our mobile classroom to K-12 schools, Homeschool Groups, Rotary Clubs, Community Gardens, Sustainability Fairs and Energy Expos. Number of people served directly is between 800 and 1200 a year. This number does not include our online support and passive impact that cannot be easily quantified.

<b>Annual Budget</b> (pre-covid) <\$20,000	<u>1</u>	# of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>70</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>8</u>	# of Board Volunteers
	<u>9</u>	# of Board/Tech Advisors
<u>20</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>10</u>	# of Active Non-Board Volunteers
	<u>2</u>	# of Student Interns (per year)
<u>10</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>A lot</u>	# of Volunteer Hours
<i>100 % total</i>		

**Top 3-5 funding sources:**

- 1) Self
- 2) Board Contributions
- 3) Workshops
- 4) Donations
- 5) Public Speaking

**Is this grant proposal for:** Capacity Building  or General Operating \_\_\_\_\_?

**If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:**

\_\_\_\_ Mission, Vision & Strategy    \_\_\_\_ Governance & Leadership    \_\_\_\_ Partnerships & Collaborations  
 Fundraising, Development & Marketing     Technology    Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation:** \$ 5,000

**Proposal Summary:**

**Fundraising / Development / Marketing/Technology**

In order to move toward sustainability, we must first build capacity. Covid forced us to pare down to an even shorter shoe-string budget than our “small but mighty” organization already operated on. We had started the process of applying for covid support for non-profit organizations and came to the point of the application when we realized that we were just short of qualifying, so we made due, pitched in, kept our heads above water, and continued as best we could. With \$5,000 we propose to build upon our technical and communications foundation and thus raise more funds through increased public awareness and educational resource development.

Without the ability to do hands-on workshops and school presentations for 2 years, we quickly pivoted and took advantage of the Covid isolation to focus on developing our educational resources. We wrote a simple manual on [How to Build a Solar CITIES IBC Tank Biodigester](#). There was such a great demand for it in challenged regions, that we published it as a downloadable e-book even before it was “polished” for printing and publication. With funding we can update, publish, and print a hard copy, offering it to people and schools directly at our educational workshops and presentations, as well as through online sources that offer better marketing.

We will update the [“Projects”](#) page of our website by hiring a retired Chester County journalist, who although retired still needs a small additional income. He will be able to continue practicing his skill by writing and submitting posts of our projects and activities on our site. We are very far behind. The last entry was in February of 2019. We’ve had at least 100 more projects and events since then, but no time or hands to do it.

We will be able to hire our web master again, a young work-from-home mom, to add items and make improvements to our website, such as the aforementioned articles, a calendar of events, and an e-commerce option for purchasing books and resources that we have been developing.

We would like to hire someone to set up our social media properly and get it rolling for the year. Our current volunteer was not recruited for social media, so is working beyond her comfort zone and outside of her valued

skill set, although she graciously struggles through it. I would prefer to put her skills to better use illustrating our educational resources.

In addition to our website [SolarCITIES.Solutions](#), in need of updating, much of our work can be seen on our [YouTube Channel](#), our non-profit [Facebook Page](#), and our Facebook Group at "[Solar CITIES Biogas Innoventors and Practitioners](#)". This is where people gather to learn from each other and proudly share projects and progress - some even showing the small businesses that they have developed.

## II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

*Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.*

### 1. Nonprofit's history, goals, key achievements & distinctiveness

- Solar CITIES is based on the work of National Geographic Explorer & University Professor, [Thomas Henry Culhane, PhD.](#), who learned about home-scale biogas in India from another professor there who built one on the rooftop of his home.
- "T.H." began this work in 2009 in Cairo, Egypt in the Zabaleen Community (translated "Garbage Collectors") where the people recycle 85% of the trash that is dumped in their community.
- SolarCITIES.Solutions is not the first iteration of a formal non-profit that T.H. started. It is actually the third. He first started a German Verein, similar to our non-profit, that unfortunately did not last. Distance and family issues made it difficult to maintain. It did however produce a great foundation of stories and articles that we have transferred to SolarCITIES.Solutions. The European website is still up and running for reference. The link is at the bottom of our own website. The second iteration was funded by InSinkErator Corporation, however, the Executive Director assigned to the non-profit took it in a very different direction that did not align with the original mission. When it failed, I had already been working in cooperation with Solar CITIES to build a biodigester in Gap, PA. My "why" is a long one, but we did not want to see the mission of this small but mighty effort dissolve, so we sat down and started over in 2014. This is now the longest running and most successful iteration of a mission that must not be allowed to fail.
- Solar CITIES is the only educational non-profit organization teaching skills in clean energy and sustainability. We focus on biodigestion as the center of a virtual hub, but also branch out into subjects like using the fertilizer from biodigestion in hydroponics and aeroponics, DIY solar panels, evacuated tube solar water heaters, make your own solar water heaters, plastic shredding, separating of plastics, creating with reclaimed plastics, water protection, needs of indigenous communities, and more.
- Biogas is the hub to our wheel, as biodigestion addresses the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals. It IS solar energy, and everyone has the resources to do do this.
- In 2014 Solar CITIES led the training of owners of a Chester County Homestead Farm, near Ludwig's Corner, in the construction of the very first 10m<sup>3</sup> concrete biodigester in North America. There have been a dozen more in the US since then.
- The first IBC tank biodigesters were built in 2014 at the Kelsey Family Homestead in Glenmoore, PA. There are now over 100 IBC tank biodigesters in the US and a dozen universities adopting our design in their engineering, sustainability, and public health programs.
- Although we are based in Chester County, we are a very diverse (in many ways) collective of members (people) in Chester County and beyond, who have come together for a worldwide urgent

initiative focused on waste to energy innovations from small-scale to larger scale. Our primary tool is education through application.

## 2. Funding request

- **Description of key initiatives**
  - Publishing - \$800
    - Illustrations
    - Editing
    - Printing
  - Website Development - \$3,000
    - Web Master
    - Content Writer
  - Social Media - \$1200
    - Social Media Manager
  
- **Specific needs & issues to be addressed**
  - We need to create more awareness of our existence and the solutions that we offer
  - Our programs are addressing, to some degree, every one of the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals.
  
- **Why it is important to fund this now**
  - We as a human race have an urgent need to address climate change, environmental issues, poverty, etc. This funding is needed to solidify our own sustainability as an organization. We need to shore up our organization so that we can shore others up for climate and disaster resilience
  
- **How impact & results will be demonstrated**
  - Receipts will be collected, and copies submitted
  - Web links of updates will be shared
  - Social Media posts will be seen, and samples shared
  - We will keep track of new members and followers of our website and social media accounts
  - New projects will be reported
  
- *For capacity building grant proposals:*
  - *How will this capacity building initiative impact your nonprofit?*
    - It will give us a leg up toward greater organizational sustainability by being able to pay for highly skilled, yet reasonably priced services.
    - We will be able to offer a small income to a young talented Chester County woman whose disabilities do not allow for traditional employment environments.
    - We will be able to supplement the income of an experienced retired Chester County Journalist in exchange for his valuable skills and enthusiasm for the subject matter.
  
  - *How will this impact be measured?*
    - Receipts will be collected, and copies submitted
    - Web links of updates will be shared
    - Social Media posts will be seen, and samples shared

- We will keep track of new members and followers of our website and social media accounts
- New projects as a result will be reported
- *Include a description of the expected activities; timeline & costs to implement the initiative.*
  - Publishing - \$800 (2-3 months)
    - Illustrations
    - Editing
    - Printing
  - Website Development - \$3,000
    - Web Master (monthly meetings and updates over 12 months)
    - Content Writer (4-6 months)
  - Social Media - \$1200
    - Social Media Manager (initial set up/monthly posts)

