ComEd Bronzeville Community Solar Project – Video Transcript

Juan Rodriguez, Project Manager, ComEd

Bronzeville is an area of significant importance in the Chicago, also known as the Black Metropolis.

There are 600 families living there.

We are talking about 1,000 customers.

The Bronzeville Microgrid project – This is a very unique project for ComEd.

We never, ever built a micogrid before.

In the scenario that the entire state is out of power, the idea for this project is to keep the lights on.

The PV system size is 750 kilowatt AC, about 900 kilowatt of DC power.

In terms of the battery system, we have a 500 kilowatt hour battery.

We want to integrate what we are building into the community.

We are leveraging the community and the existing infrastructure.

One of the walls of the outside of the battery storage system right now is a mural of the community.

It can tell and it can show the whole story of the Bronzeville community.

Van Vincent, President and CEO, VLV Development

I was born and raised in the south side of Chicago, not far from the Bronzeville community microgrid.

We thought that working with the local housing authority would provide the community it serves with solar as a means of inspiration.

We worked with local suppliers, we worked with local labor, we worked with local engineers, and some folk out of the city of Chicago to bring about the generation portion of the Bronzeville microgrid project.

It made a difference for people to look out the windows and see it in their community. It provided jobs, it provided economic growth.

So giving people who live there an opportunity is really important to us. It matters that black people have a job. It matters to us that Hispanics have a job. It matters to us that people in the communities are not the last group to be welcomed into this new green economy.

Hopefully the thing that they take away from that is "I can do it too, I can have it too, it's real, and it's in my community, so therefore it does exist and there is an opportunity."