

***Athens Energy Opportunity: Embedding Weatherization Readiness and Solarization into Community Development Practice in 3 High Energy-Burden Neighborhoods of Athens, Georgia***

**Prime recipient:** Athens Land Trust, Inc. (ALT)  
Mattox

**Principal Investigator:** Tawana S.

**Key Participants:** ACTION, Inc.; Athens-Clarke County Sustainability Office; Athens-Clarke County Central Services; University of Georgia Center for Housing and Community Research

**Requested EERE funds:** \$478,976

**Leveraged funds:** \$576,710

**Project Summary, impact, and goals:** Athens Energy Opportunity is a place-based collaboration between the Key Participants and community members of the neighborhoods of West Broad, North Athens, and East Athens, GA. We will coordinate evaluation design, workforce education and development workshops with a focus on electrical and solar installation skills, and resident support qualifying and applying for Weatherization Assistance Program improvements. Building off of the successful collaborative with Southeastern Sustainability Directors Network and ACC government's commitment to 100% renewable energy, ALT will facilitate community outreach and leadership development modeled after the West Broad Neighborhood Advisory Board, which in collaboration with the ALT's Urban Builders program, has provided young Athenians ages 16-24 with the opportunity to develop basic job skills and exposure to trades ranging from arborist to electrician and provided 40 homes in the West Broad Neighborhood with vital improvements. Neighborhood Advisory Boards will play a core role in the ongoing evaluation of community benefit and serve as a conduit for recipients of weatherization assistance and other community development support to inform local agencies on community priorities. The project aims to improve interagency cooperation among local government and Community Development Agencies in the region and create sustained community input to maximize the leverage and impact of Weatherization Assistance and Solar readiness in communities facing the most disproportionate energy burdens.