



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**DC Green Bank and City First Enterprises Close \$320,000 Loan with Copernican to Bring Solar Energy to Low-Income Households**

(Washington, D.C.) – [DC Green Bank](#) and [City First Enterprises](#) (CFE) today announced the closing of a \$320,000 construction-to-permanent loan to [Copernican Energy](#), financing a 125-kW portfolio of approximately nine residential solar installations in underserved communities. Upon completion, these projects will deliver greenhouse gas reductions of approximately 2,040 metrics tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent over 20 years, as well as generate at least 50% energy bill savings for participating low-to-moderate income households. This loan is part of an ongoing small business loan partnership between DC Green Bank and City First Enterprises.

This portfolio of solar projects marks the latest milestone for DC Green Bank and Copernican Energy. Last year, DC Green Bank financed a 208-kW solar portfolio with Copernican Energy that provided solar energy to 23 low-to-moderate-income households in Wards 7 and 8. Supporting local businesses and investing in clean energy solutions are vital components of Mayor Bowser’s strategy for the District to achieve carbon neutrality and climate resilience by 2045.

"We are proud to support Copernican Energy as they bring clean energy solutions to communities across DC, lower utility bills for consumers, and help advance equitable solar access," said Trisha Miller, Chief Executive Officer at DC Green Bank. "It is critical to our mission that we crowd in additional capital, and that is why we are pleased to partner with City First Enterprises. Partnerships like this demonstrate the power of green finance to transform communities and our clean energy future."

Through financing solar portfolios, DC Green Bank and City First Enterprises not only foster the growth of the renewable energy sector but also actively contribute to local job creation and help the

District meet its ambitious climate and inclusive development goals. "This deal is a significant milestone for Copernican because this collaboration with DC Green Bank and City First Enterprises demonstrates how mission-driven lending creates an ecosystem for flexible and innovative financing that emerging developers need," said Chris Turner, Partner at Copernican Energy. "As we continue to scale our business, having capital partners that fill the gaps is crucial to the feasibility of these projects."

"At City First Enterprises, green lending is one of our core investment areas because clean and renewable energy should be available to all District residents, regardless of their income or zip code," said Oswaldo Acosta, President and CEO at City First Enterprises. "Our partnership with DC Green Bank to provide access to capital for Copernican and other small businesses is crucial for the development of a clean economy and to support the workforce of the future."

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### **About DC Green Bank**

DC Green Bank develops and facilitates innovative financial solutions to support District businesses, organizations, and residents on the path to a cleaner future for all. We invest in solar energy systems, energy efficient buildings and retrofits, green stormwater infrastructure, and transportation electrification in line with our values of Sustainability, Clean Economy, and Inclusive Prosperity. To date, DC Green Bank has invested tens of millions of dollars in a cleaner, greener, and more equitable future. To learn more, please visit us at [www.dcgreenbank.com](http://www.dcgreenbank.com).

### **About City First Enterprises**

City First Enterprises helps achieve racial, economic, and social equity by providing underinvested communities with access to capital and financial expertise for affordable housing, education, nonprofits, small businesses, and climate-focused solutions. We envision more vibrant, resilient, just neighborhoods with higher employment, greater self-sufficiency, and equitable access to services and opportunity. Additional information about CFE's lending can be found at [www.cfenterprises.org](http://www.cfenterprises.org).

### **About Copernican Energy**

Copernican provides sustainable energy solutions, tailored to local markets. Solving the climate crisis is at the heart of our mission. To learn more visit [www.copernicanenergy.com](http://www.copernicanenergy.com).