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\$2 Million DC Green Bank Loan to Finance Solar Power System and All-Electric Kitchens at Community Gathering and Retail Venue in Ward 8

(Washington, D.C.) - [DC Green Bank](#) today announced \$2 million in financing for solar power, battery storage, and fully electric modular kitchens at [Sycamore & Oak](#) on the St. Elizabeths East Campus in Congress Heights in Ward 8. The Retail Village at Sycamore & Oak is a 23,000-square-foot sustainably designed, mass timber building that is home to 20 Black-owned businesses, all led by East of the River entrepreneurs. Led by a diverse coalition and operated in partnership with the Congress Heights Community Training and Development Corporation, the project provides opportunities for business development and much-needed retail options, programming, events, and trade-focused training, and other resources for the Congress Heights community.

DC Green Bank invested in the installation of a 138-kW rooftop solar array, as well as a solar battery storage system, to provide continuous power to the property. The financing also supports all-electric kitchen units, which include space for food preparation, storage, and service. These innovative modular kitchens will serve as a hub for chefs in residence – with guidance from the José Andrés Group – and a proof of concept for future all-electric kitchens.

The Retail Village is the first phase of development of St. Elizabeths East, which is envisioned as a 650,000-square-foot mixed-use development that will include workforce housing, retail space, the first hotel East of the River, and green space.

“Sycamore & Oak demonstrates how DC local businesses and residents are building a more sustainable and inclusive economy,” said Trisha Miller, CEO of DC Green Bank. “We’re excited to support an innovative climate technology project that will directly benefit the Congress Heights community, grow new businesses, and sustain jobs for Washingtonians.”

“DC Green Bank has been an essential partner in making the clean energy feature of Sycamore & Oak a reality and a consistent supporter of our work to create a model for sustainable community development,” said Louis Dubin, Managing Partner at Redbrick LMD, a development partner for Sycamore & Oak. “This financing helps us show how technologies like mass timber, electric

kitchens, and battery storage can build vibrant community spaces that create new opportunities for residents.”

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 millions of dollars in a cleaner, greener, and more equitable future. To learn more, please visit us at www.dcgreenbank.com

About Sycamore & Oak

Sycamore & Oak (S&O) is a 23,000-square-foot retail activation on the St. Elizabeths East Campus in Congress Heights. Home to 20 Black-owned businesses, all led by East of the River entrepreneurs, the project provides opportunities for business development and much-needed retail options, programming, events, and trade-focused training, and other resources for the Congress Heights community. With four eateries and a small grocer focused on wellness and healthy eating, S&O dramatically expands choices for those who live and work nearby. The site boasts a large community gathering and performance space that is programmed with music, arts, cultural, and educational events. A training space is used for classes in building management, retail, and the security fields. Constructed entirely of sustainably harvested mass timber with all electric operations, the building demonstrates leadership in environmentally sensitive design.