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Just A Start Celebrates Solar Energy Initiative Across Affordable Housing Portfolio
New solar installations across 17 affordable housing properties advance climate resilience, reduce emissions, and support long-term housing stability

Cambridge, MA, September 14, 2026—Just A Start celebrates the advancement of a major solar energy initiative bringing renewable energy to 17 of its existing affordable housing properties across Cambridge. The project represents a significant investment in climate resilience and the long-term sustainability of affordable housing, while helping to reduce energy costs and strengthen operations for nearly 144 affordable homes.

The completed project includes 338 kW DC of solar capacity across 17 Just A Start properties. In partnership with Resonant Energy, a solar energy company specializing in affordable housing and nonprofit projects, Just A Start installed rooftop solar systems expected to generate approximately 370,000 kWh of electricity annually. Maloney Properties, Just A Start's property management partner, supported the implementation of the project, as did Just A Start's partners at MassHousing, MHIC, and Boston Financial.

Over the next 20 years, the project is projected to reduce carbon emissions by approximately 3,200 tons, equivalent to more than 7.2 million pounds. The solar installations will help Just A Start stabilize energy costs across its affordable housing portfolio, providing discounted energy and greater long-term price stability in the face of rising energy costs. Excess energy generated by the project will help offset the electricity consumed at Just A Start's headquarters.

"This project is a powerful step forward for both climate action and housing equity in Cambridge," said **Carl Nagy-Koechlin, Executive Director of Just A Start**. "We are grateful to the City of Cambridge, Mass Clean Energy Center, the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority, and all of our project partners for helping us bring renewable energy to 17 of our affordable housing properties. This investment will strengthen our housing portfolio, reduce our environmental impact, and provide benefits that will extend well into the future."

The project was supported by grant funding from the City of Cambridge and Mass Clean Energy Center EmPower Massachusetts Program, with financing provided through the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority's Revolving Loan Fund. The initial solar feasibility assessment of Just A Start's housing portfolio began in 2023 through the Solar Technical Retrofit Program (STAR), an initiative by Local Initiatives Support Corporation, and also funded in part by the EmPower Massachusetts Program. This feasibility assessment, combined with ongoing technical support and state and local funding, enabled Just A Start to pursue an innovative ownership model designed to maximize the value of expiring solar tax credits instead of entering into a traditional third-party lease or power purchase agreement, retaining more long-term value to support its mission.

"Just A Start is demonstrating how creative ownership models and financing can help affordable housing organizations install solar to lower energy costs and deliver those benefits directly to residents," said **Jim Stanislaski, MassCEC Managing Director of Accelerating Decarbonization**. "This is an important opportunity as we develop practical and replicable ways for Massachusetts communities to transition to cleaner, homegrown energy."

"Just A Start's solar initiative is a testament to both the complexity of integrating solar PV into existing affordable housing and the value organizations can realize when they roll up their sleeves," said **Isaac Baker, Co-CEO of Resonant Energy**. "It has been an honor helping Just A Start thread together the federal, state, municipal, and utility incentives and funding sources that will make this initiative an enduring success".

The initiative was part of the City of Cambridge's Cambridge Photovoltaic Equipment Reimbursement Program for 100% Affordable Housing, which used American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to expand renewable energy capacity across affordable housing in Cambridge. The broader program provided a combined \$1 million in funding to Just A Start and the Cambridge Housing Authority to support solar installations across 28 buildings serving 686 affordable homes. The 17 Just A Start properties participating in the initiative are:

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| • 54–56 Berkshire Street | • 1 Linwood Court | • 67–73 Webster Avenue / 51–53 Bristol Street |
| • 77 Bishop Allen Drive | • 40 Market Street | • 26 York Street |
| • 8–12 Boardman Street | • 59 Norfolk Street | • 30 York Street |
| • 261–263 Broadway | • 62 Norfolk Street | • 40 York Street |
| • 72 Elm Street | • 206–220 Otis Street | • 50 York Street |
| • 35 Hovey Avenue | • 106 Tremont Street / 1167 Cambridge Street | |

With the completion of the initiative, Just A Start has expanded renewable energy across its affordable housing portfolio while advancing its commitment to sustainable, resilient, and financially stable housing for Cambridge residents.



8-12 Boardman Street



26, 30, 40 York Street



67-73 Webster Avenue

Photos by Elizabeth Pierre

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About Just A Start:

Just A Start believes that access to stable housing and sustainable careers are the essential building blocks of equitable communities. For more than 50 years, we have focused on meeting the fundamental needs of individuals and families who have been systematically denied opportunities to realize their full potential. Our programs include affordable housing, education and job training, and comprehensive support services, spanning Cambridge and beyond. We have developed and currently maintain 600 affordable apartments. To keep community members housed, we also offer financial and technical assistance to prevent evictions, and support low- and moderate-income homeowners. Finally, we prepare individuals of all ages and circumstances with the skills and knowledge they need to secure fulfilling careers, leveraging their talents to achieve economic mobility and strengthen the region's workforce.