Community-Owned Solar in Sunset Park

LIFE 2017 Regional Meeting
Ryan Chavez, UPROSE
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Climate change impacts low income people and people of color first and worst

Our experience now descends from legacy of extraction of labor and resources

Climate justice is about challenging underlying racial and economic structures

Solutions must be local and come from the bottom up, not the top down
A Just Transition

• The climate crisis exists at the intersection of many crises
A Just Transition in Sunset Park

• How does a community operationalize a Just Transition locally?

• Sunset Park classic industrial waterfront vulnerable to climate change

• Similar to communities across the nation, can serve as a model
Environmental Burdens

• Heavy clustering of noxious and toxic land uses
• Dozens of contaminated brownfields
• Three peaker plants within 10 blocks
• In close proximity to residential, work, and recreational sites
Community-Owned Solar

- Develop a community shared solar array in Sunset Park
- Provide lower-cost energy for low-income residents
- Low-income renters in Sunset Park own a share of the solar array
Thank you.

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