



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Person: Doug Coward, Executive Director
Telephone Number: (772) 468-1818
Email Address: dougc@solarenergyloanfund.org

SELF Receives Statewide Certification

St. Lucie County, FL, July 7, 2016 –

The Solar and Energy Loan Fund (SELF) is pleased to announce that the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Community Development Financial Institutions Fund has recertified the nonprofit as a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) and granted statewide certification. CDFI certification means that SELF meets the requirements described in the CDFI Program regulations, including: having a primary mission of promoting community development; predominantly serving and maintaining accountability to eligible target markets; being a financing entity; providing development services; and, being neither a government entity nor controlled by a government entity.

SELF began as a pilot program in St. Lucie County in the spring of 2011 after being selected as 1 of 20 programs in America to receive seed funds from the U.S. Department of Energy to foster innovative clean energy financing tools. SELF finances energy conservation, energy efficiency, solar technologies, wind resilience, and water conservation projects. Over the last 5 years, SELF has helped more than 550 families finance \$4.6 million of sustainable home improvement projects in 50 jurisdictions in Florida. SELF’s “Green” CDFI remains one-of-a-kind in Florida, and their community-based lending activities serve as a clean economic engine generating triple bottom line impacts in underserved communities. SELF lays the groundwork for climate resilience through robust partnerships, energy assessments, and community outreach, and provides greater access to low-cost capital and innovative financing tools to spawn climate adaptation, climate mitigation and social cohesion.

SELF’s “Rebuilding and Empowering Underserved Communities” program is helping low- and moderate-income homeowners, veterans, female heads of household and physically- and credit-impaired individuals: (1) complete much-needed home improvement projects; (2) reduce operating costs (i.e., energy and insurance rates); (3) enhance comfort and livability; (4) improve air quality and health benefits; (5) increase the structural integrity of the home; (6) increase and safeguard home equity; and, (7) reduce greenhouse gases through energy efficiencies and clean energy alternatives.

For more information about SELF, please feel free to contact the organization by telephone at # (772) 468-1818 or visit www.solarenergyloanfund.org.