

Mississippi Development Authority  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ASSISTS  
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOME TO GO SOLAR**

*Kick-off of State's Million Solar Roofs Program Announced*

Jackson, Miss., - The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) today added the state's first Habitat for Humanity Home to its growing list of solar power customers. The program served as the announcement of the state's participation in the Department of Energy's, Million Solar Roofs Initiative by showcasing solar water heating technology installed in the home and at the North Mid-town Community Development Corporation building both located in the 200 block of McTyere street in Jackson.

"Today's announcement is a great illustration of how MDA's solar program is continuing to generate economic development and provide jobs to the citizens of Mississippi," said Kenneth Calvin, director of the MDA Energy division.

Robert J. Rohrlack, Jr., executive director for MDA noted the importance of developing a blueprint for widespread solar energy use in Mississippi will require a plan to simultaneously build a demand for energy efficient solar equipment while developing the infrastructure for distribution and installation of the systems. "Our role has been to take the lead and develop relationships among our partners from the initial planning stage through project implementation. The Million Solar Roofs Initiative is helping increase the market for solar energy. At the same time, the Initiative is offering consumers an affordable, clean-energy option, creating high-technology jobs, and playing an important role in reducing emissions."

Announced in June 1997, Million Solar Roofs (MSRI) goal is to install solar energy systems on one million U.S. buildings by the year 2010. Mississippi has pledged to install 500 solar systems as a participant with the project.

**(MORE)**

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The initiative includes two types of solar technology: solar electric systems (or photovoltaics) that produce electricity from sunlight and solar thermal systems that produce heat for domestic hot water, space heating, or heating swimming pools.

The Million Solar Roofs initiative is a part of a series of technology demonstrations that also includes a multi-family dwelling in Milestone, Mississippi and in three housing developments funded through the Community Services Division of MDA. Data collected from these projects will serve to quantify the annual dollar savings and environmental benefits to Mississippi consumers. The initiative also facilitates the development of Mississippi's only solar thermal equipment distribution and installation business with planned operation at North Mid-town Community Development Corporation.

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### **Participants in the announcement included:**

Dwight Bailey, Million Solar Roofs Coordinator, Department of Energy, Atlanta, GA

M. C. Burks, Executive Director, North Mid-Town Community Development Corporation

William Guiney, General Manager of Duke Solar Energy, Raleigh, N.C.

LaVonne McGee, Director of the Mayor's Brownfield Initiative, City of Jackson

Kenneth J. Calvin, Division Director, Energy, Mississippi Development Authority

Wes Miller, Bureau Manager, Energy, Mississippi Development Authority

Sam Mozee, Division Director, Community Services, Mississippi Development Authority

Nina Redding, Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity, Jackson

Melbah Smith, Project Director, Mississippi Association of Cooperatives