



For Immediate Release:

State College Community Land Trust receives \$450K from West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund

Monies will be directed to build affordable duplex equipped with green technology

June 6, 2017 -- The State College Community Land Trust (SCCLT) has been awarded a \$100,000 grant and a \$350,000 construction loan from West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund (WPPSEF) to help fund the construction of an affordable duplex equipped with green energy technology in the Borough of State College. Other key partners are the Borough of State College, the Penn State Hamer Center for Community Design/Energy Efficient Housing Research Group, Centre County Commissioners, and S&T Bank.

Susan Venegoni, SCCLT president, said, "Project funding from WPPSEF enables our Land Trust to expand affordable housing to middle-income households in the Borough of State College. For 20 years, the SCCLT has focused on increasing housing opportunities for low to moderate-income households. Through our GreenBuild project, we will be able to help two middle-income individuals or families to buy a Land Trust duplex and lower their overall housing costs by reducing energy costs."

Joel Morrison, Director of West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund, said "Our financial support will help this community to showcase the benefits from a project that began when SCCLT met with the Penn State Hamer Center and challenged the architecture and engineering students to form a team to compete in the 2015 US Department of Energy (DOE) Race to Zero Student Design Competition. This competition challenges and inspires the next generation of building science professionals to design an affordable, net zero energy home that meets DOE's Zero Energy Ready Home guidelines.

"By definition, these high-performance homes are so energy-efficient that renewable power can offset most or all of the annual energy consumption," he said. "This design program will foster existing and future collaboration with university architectural and engineering students to deploy high performance construction practices in their local communities. We are proud to pioneer this new GreenBuild initiative along with State College Community Land Trust to provide affordable, high performance housing."

SCCLT has been conducting a successful fundraising campaign for the GreenBuild project, and thanks to the generosity of numerous donors, the project is now able to move forward. However, the Land Trust is continuing to pursue additional support to help achieve the goal of making the duplex fully net zero ready.

Envinity, Inc. of State College has been selected to construct the duplex and will partner with Henry Architecture & Design, and Macht Architecture. GreenBuild will benefit not only the people who own the homes, but also will serve as a model for builders, developers, architects and individual homeowners seeking new ways to reduce energy costs.

Peg Hambrick, chair of the GreenBuild Project, said: "As a model project, GreenBuild will provide valuable insight into ways to lower the costs of home ownership over the long term. In a community that already has a shortage of affordable housing, the SCCLT will eliminate another barrier to home ownership by reducing the energy cost burden. We are proud to welcome WPPSEF as a key partner in this town-gown collaboration to address one of our community's most well-known challenges: affordable housing."

More information is at: www.scclandtrust.org/greenbuild or the SCCLT office at 814-867-0656.

About

The **State College Community Land Trust (SCCLT)** is a nonprofit organization that sustains the vibrancy and diversity of the State College Borough community by answering the ongoing need for affordable housing and increasing home ownership. SCCLT has enabled nearly 60 individuals and families to purchase affordable homes in the Borough of State College. With the median price of a home in the Borough at \$278,000, many individuals from low, moderate, *and* middle-income levels face challenges in purchasing a home in the Borough. Visit <http://www.scclandtrust.org> for more information.

The **West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund (WPPSEF)** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that invests in the deployment of sustainable energy technologies that benefit West Penn Power ratepayers in Pennsylvania. WPPSEF investments are focused in three broad categories:

- ✓ Deployment of sustainable and clean energy technologies;
- ✓ Deployment of energy efficiency and conservation technologies; and
- ✓ Facilitating economic development, environmental betterment, and public education as they relate to sustainable energy deployment in the WPP service region.

Visit <http://www.wppsef.org> for further information.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Colleen Ritter, State College Community Land Trust, 814-867-0656, director@scclandtrust.org

Barbara Robuck, West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund, 814-865-7380 WPPSEF@ems.psu.edu