

## Calif. Environmental Group Working Toward Solar Rooftops for All

A recent news article in California Watch did the math: “San Diego houses more than 2,600 solar residential rooftops, more than any other California City, but in the neighboring lower-income community of National City, there are only about a dozen.”

More than 22 percent of the families in National City, Calif. live below the poverty line. Some of the sunshine state’s most vulnerable communities don’t have access to the booming green economy because of the cost, said Diane Takvorian, executive director of the Environmental Health Coalition in California.

Instead, many have suffered the most from dirty energy industries and nearby power plants.

Lilia Escalante wanted to “go green” with solar, but she was quickly discouraged by costs. EHC leaders helped her located services for affordable solar installation. As a result, her rooftop solar installation reduced her energy bill by more than 95 percent.

“My kids are proud to show their friends our solar panels, and I’m happy to see them excited about doing their part for the environment,” said Escalante.

*The Environmental Health Coalition is one of the oldest grassroots organizations in the country using social change strategies to achieve environmental justice.*

