



## **NRG Energy donates \$100,000 to fund solar power expansion at the Houston Food Bank**

July 15, 2014

*Contribution boosts efforts to fight hunger in the Greater Houston Area*

HOUSTON; July 15, 2014 – Today the Houston Food Bank received a \$100,000 donation from NRG Energy, Inc. to support the installation of a solar array at the 308,000-square foot facility just east of downtown Houston. Before the end of summer, new solar panels atop its expansive warehouse and distribution center will convert energy from the sun into more meals for hungry children and adults.

The donation from NRG will complement a similar donation from Green Mountain Energy™ Sun Club™ to construct a single array that will double the benefit to the Food Bank. The combined array will consist of 280 photovoltaic panels which are expected to annually generate over 80,000 kilowatt-hours of clean, renewable electricity to offset a portion of the facility's energy needs.

Brian Greene, Houston Food Bank president/CEO, said energy cost savings will enable the organization to provide thousands of additional meals to needy children and adults.

"We have a large warehouse and distribution center that uses a lot of electricity," said Greene. "NRG's generous donation will help reduce our operating costs so we can feed even more hungry Houstonians. It will also help reduce our environmental footprint and help us take to the next step in sustainably serving our community."

John Ragan, President of NRG's Gulf Coast operations, serves as chairman of the Houston Food Bank's board of directors. NRG has maintained a longstanding commitment to the food bank with financial donations and employee volunteers.

"The Houston Food Bank fills a vital need in our community," said Ragan. "Leveraging our experience with rooftop solar to help them feed more people is one of the many ways NRG supports this community."

In 2008, NRG provided \$200,000 to support Houston Food Bank's emergency operations in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike. Additionally, NRG personnel maintain the Food Bank's emergency generators that can ensure the refrigerators and freezers keep food safe during outages such as was experienced after Ike.

The Houston Food Bank is the largest food bank in the nation serving more than 74 million meals every year, according to a report from Feeding America, serving more than 800,000 hungry people each year.

### **About NRG**

NRG is leading a customer-driven change in the U.S. energy industry by delivering cleaner and smarter energy choices, while building on the strength of the nation's largest and most diverse competitive power portfolio. A Fortune 250 company, we create value through reliable and efficient conventional generation while driving innovation in solar and renewable power, electric vehicle ecosystems, carbon capture technology and customer-centric energy solutions. Our retail electricity providers serve almost 3 million residential and commercial customers throughout the country. More information is available at [www.nrg.com](http://www.nrg.com). Connect with NRG Energy on Facebook and follow us on Twitter [@nrgenergy](https://twitter.com/nrgenergy).

### **About Houston Food Bank**

The Houston Food Bank is the largest source of food for hunger relief charities in 18 southeast Texas counties. Through a network of 600 food pantries, soup kitchens, senior centers and other agencies, 800,000 people are fed each year.

Founded in 1982, the Houston Food Bank is a certified member of Feeding America, the nation's food bank network.

Website: [HoustonFoodBank.org](http://HoustonFoodBank.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/HoustonFoodBank](https://facebook.com/HoustonFoodBank)

Twitter: @HoustonFoodBank

YouTube Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/houstonfoodbank>

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