

Helping Communities Shine by Expanding Access to Clean Energy

Clearloop Carbon Solutions | Panola, Mississippi

About

Clearloop partners with companies of all sizes to decarbonize the grid by expanding access to solar energy in American communities where the greatest economic and environmental benefits can be achieved. Using EIG’s Distressed Communities Index (DCI), the carbon solutions company identifies economically distressed communities that would benefit from the long-term environmental, economic, and social impacts of renewable energy investment.

Harnessing the DCI for Site Selection

Clearloop focuses on sun-intensive regions of the country that currently have fossil fuel-reliant energy grids in order to shift to carbon-free electricity with the investment of new solar projects. Utilizing EIG’s Distressed Communities Index (DCI), Clearloop identifies communities where new solar projects can achieve the greatest social, economic, and environmental impact. The DCI has informed the site selection for all of Clearloop’s active investments since the company’s launch in 2019; this includes three solar projects in Panola County, MS, a community located at the cross-section of the Mississippi Delta and the Appalachian Foothills. Clearloop has also used the DCI to inform the locations for nearly 40 forthcoming projects as it expands across five southeastern states through 2024.

*“The Economic Innovation Group’s Distressed Communities Index (DCI) stood out as a source of data that combined a lot of different, smaller points of data to **give us a fuller picture of different communities and where we can build to have the biggest economic impact.**”*

Karina Rovey, Clearloop Community Partnerships Associate

DCI SCORE

91

Distressed

DCI PROFILE

Panola, Mississippi

	PANOLA	NATIONAL
NO HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	19.8%	11.5%
POVERTY RATE	22.0%	12.8%
ADULTS NOT WORKING	35.0%	21.4%
HOUSING VACANCY RATE	13.2%	7.8%
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME	\$39.6K	\$65K
CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT	3.1%	5.8%
CHANGE IN ESTABLISHMENTS	4.5%	3.1%

In many ways, distressed communities embody left-behind America, and they frequently bear signs of profound disconnection from the country’s overall economic success. In the average distressed community, **23%** of the population lives below the poverty line, **34%** of the prime working-age adult population are out of work, and **19%** lack a high school diploma.



Image courtesy of Clearloop

Making an Impact in Left-Behind Communities

Clearloop’s three solar projects in the Mississippi Delta’s Panola County—the first renewable energy projects in the county—will power a combined 3,000 homes with clean energy and prevent over one billion pounds of carbon from entering the atmosphere. They will also engage local construction and maintenance services and upgrade distribution lines in the process. As a long-term member of the communities where Clearloop projects are located, the company fosters relationships between their corporate partners and the local community, which have catalyzed follow-on social impact projects with partners providing computer access for students in the community, for example.

The Distressed Communities Index (DCI) is a tool for measuring the comparative economic well-being of U.S. communities and helps illuminate local disparities across the country. In all, the DCI captures more than 99% of the U.S. population and nearly 26,000 zip codes. Through initiatives such as Clearloop’s, the DCI helps advance a more inclusive American economy. The DCI is used by nonprofits targeting grants for small businesses, companies seeking to cultivate inclusive supply chains, analysts conducting research on healthcare outcomes, state/local governments targeting services, and reporters looking for economic insights, to name just a few typical user groups and purposes. **For more information and to license the DCI visit eig.org/distressed-communities.**