



Office of Indian Energy Webinar: "Jobs and Economic Development from Tribal Energy Projects"

GRID Alternatives Tribal Program
Tim Willink, Director

www.gridalternatives.org/tribal

Tribal Program Overview

History

First project January 2010—North Coast Office

Tribal Projects

650 Tribal Installations

660 Families Served

Over 4.1 Megawatts-DC

Clean, renewable solar power

611 Tribal Participants (Identify as AI/AN)

Trained in solar installation on Tribal projects

50 Veterans

146 Female

45 reported GRID experience helped them get a job



Where we work: Tribal Programs at GRID

43 total tribal partners

- 32 in California
- 11 across the U.S.

Tribal HQ based in CO

Support regional offices with current tribal projects

- San Diego
- Inland Empire
- North Coast/Bay Area
- Colorado



Regional Office Highlights

Chemeheuvi (80 Residential since 2013)

- Carport Microgrid Installation, 20 Tribal Members received training

Bishop Paiute (123 Installs since 2013)

- Solar Futures Program > **3 Internships** > SolarCorps (DOE First Steps Grant for Youth Employment)
- Awarded for 38 more homes

San Pasqual (69 projects since 2012)

- Recently completed DOE grant: 40 homes (within three area tribes), 3 tribal buildings, and training for 16 tribal members
- Awarded for a microgrid project

Ute Mountain Utes (Colorado)

- Awarded by DOE to install 1MW



Spokane Nation - Wellpinit, WA

~650kW

- 9 Tribal Buildings
- 23 residential units

Workforce Development

- TERO Office
- Housing Employees
- Interns



Rosebud Sioux Tribe, SD

15 Projects since 2015

Utility Commission – DOE Award

Job Training Partners

- Housing Authority
- TERO Office
- SNETP

We Build – Women's Build

Upcoming:

200kW ground mount

13 homes



Eastern Agency of Navajo Nation, NM

Solar Spring Break-NTU and Fort Lewis College

Student Successes: Troops to Solar Install, 3
Summer Internships

3 community projects, 15 residential

Local High Schools



Energy Sovereignty



Currently:

- \$\$ goes off the reservation
- Disproportionate Energy Burden
- Financing Models for US don't work
- Lack of Local Capacity (Opportunity)
- Tribes are looking more to solar/renewable

Energy Sovereignty Future

- Strategic Energy Plans
- Potential policy changes—RPS, Tribal Carveout, Interconnection, Net Metering
- Distributed Generation=local control/jobs
- Economic and Environmental Benefits
- Local Capacity/Expertise



Working with GRID

In-class and on the job training taught by GRID staff.

Students gain real-world job skills while giving them exposure to solar career opportunities

Energy Efficiency

How Solar works

Net metering /Electric billing changes

Economic benefits of solar

Basic solar design and sizing systems

Hands on installation



Workforce Development & Volunteer Programs

- No tools or experience needed
- Installation Basics Training (IBT) certificates
- Team Leader program
- Community service hours
- Troops to Solar/ Veteran Initiative
- Solar Corps/13 month fellowship
- Solar Futures (High School Program)
- Solar Spring Break (College Program)
- Corporate Sponsored Volunteerism



Partners

Tribal Housing Authorities

Tribal Colleges

Tribal Utilities

Tribal Veterans Organizations

Tribal High Schools

Tribal Environmental Groups

Office of Indian Energy at the
Department of Energy -

<https://www.energy.gov/indianenergy/funding>



SolarCorps

11 Native American SolarCorps

2 Solar Installation Supervisors
(SolarCorps Alumni)

Different parts of the country



Thank You

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