
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

**Chemehuevi** (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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