



Blue Lake Rancheria

Solar Career Training Initiative for Native Americans and Native American Veterans

Principle Investigator: Stephen Kullmann
Business Manager: Kim Norton

Role of Team Members

**Awardee: Blue Lake Rancheria,
Prime recipient, program
facilitator**



**Subrecipients: GRID Alternatives,
Direct training provider**



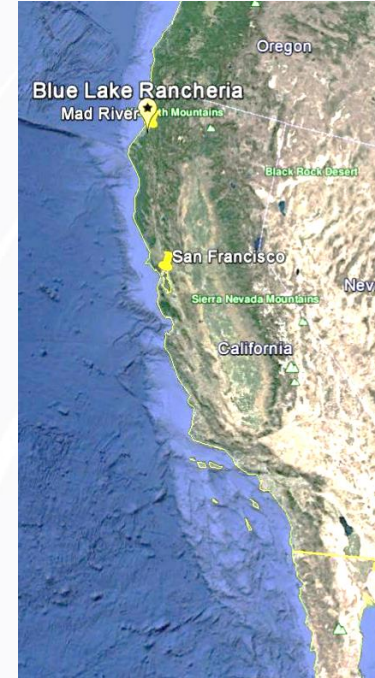
Background

Blue Lake Rancheria:

- Federally recognized Tribe in rural Northern California
- Small Tribe/large impact
- Two innovative solar/battery microgrids
- White House *Climate Change Champion* 2015-2016
- Bio-diesel regional transportation fleet
- Planned *Toma* Resiliency and Innovation Campus

GRID Alternatives:

- Country's largest non-profit solar installer
- Has partnered with > 40 Native American Tribes and 500 trainees to install solar electric systems in Tribal Communities



Project Objectives

Increase Participation in Solar Industry for Native Americans

Objective 1: Identify potential barriers for participation in solar industry

Objective 2: Recruit trainees and facilitate participation

Objective 3: Increase Tribal Government capacity to implement solar development projects

Project Objectives, continued

Increase Participation in Solar Industry for Native Americans

Objective 4: Provide trainees necessary skills to enter solar workforce

Objective 5: Assist trainees in securing jobs

Objective 6: Plan for sustainability of project

Project Implementation

Outreach – Needs Assessment

- Survey of Job Training Needs for Industry
- Survey of Training Needs and Barriers specific to Native American and Native American Veteran Populations

Project Implementation

Context

- 31,000 American Indian and Alaska Native men and women are on active duty today, serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere around the world.
- 140,000 living Native Americans are veterans. 11.5 percent of these veterans are female, as compared to 8 percent of all other ethnicities.
- 18.6% Native Americans served in the post-9/11 period in a higher percentage than veterans of other ethnicities.
- Native Americans unemployed at higher rates than national and regional averages. Unemployment rates on certain isolated Indian reservations can exceed 20%.

<https://www.cbpp.org/native-americans-face-high-unemployment-0>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-04-05/where-u-s-unemployment-is-still-sky-high-indian-reservations>

Project Implementation

Solar Development Workshops for Tribal Governments

- Provide capacity training for Tribal Governments interested in developing solar projects on their lands. Increase Tribal Sovereignty over their energy and development needs and job opportunities for Tribal Community members.
- Repeated each Budget Period
- In-person plus webinar formats
- Context: Tribal lands historically have been exploited for energy extraction with little benefit going to Tribal Government and Members.

Project Implementation

Classroom and Hands-on Solar Installation Trainings

- Provide capacity training for Tribal Governments interested in developing solar projects on their lands. Increase Tribal Sovereignty over their energy and development needs and job opportunities for Tribal Community members.
- Repeated each Budget Period
- In-person plus webinar formats
- In conjunction with GRID Alternatives solar installations on Tribal lands

Project Results

Greater participation in solar industry among Tribal Citizens

Achieved through trainings, outreach, and job placement assistance

Increased solar projects on Tribal lands

Achieved through Solar Development Workshops providing capacity building skills for Tribes to plan, fund, and implement solar projects on their lands

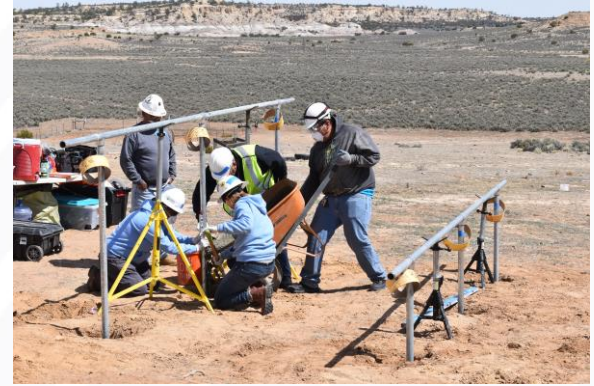
Continual self-evaluation and adaptive management

Self-evaluation planned at the end of each budget period and during tasks. Plan to rapidly assess success and potential need for improvement and incorporate into future tasks in an iterative process

Replicable plan and results for outreach to Tribes

Sustainability plan developed and refined throughout project. Results and lessons shared with a wide audience

What does Success Look like?



Project Outcomes

- Minimum of 50 trainees completed course
- Minimum of 25 successful job placements
- Broad participation in Tribal Solar Development Workshops

What does Success Look like?



Project Impact and Sustainability

- Sustainability Plan detailing strategies to continue outreach, training, and job placement assistance
- Outreach to help others increase Tribal engagement in solar development and career training initiatives