



“How to Create Partnerships to Advance Tribal Energy Projects”

OIE Webinar



July 29, 2020 | Tim Willink

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- GRID Alternatives' Tribal Program
 - Children Of the Sun Solar Initiative (COSSI) Celebration video
- GRID Alternatives' partnership with the Spokane Nation
- 4 Homes Demonstration project--2015
- COSSI Project
- 2021 Project

GRID Alternatives

Tribal Program



Our Vision & Mission

Clean energy transition includes everyone

GRID makes renewable energy technology and job training accessible to underserved communities.

- Direct solar project development & technical assistance
- Workforce development
- Low-income solar, equitable clean energy & climate policy leadership

GRID Tribal Program Overview

History

First project January 2010—North Coast Office

Tribal Projects

743 Tribal Installations

803 Families Served

Over 5.5 Megawatts-DC

Clean, renewable solar power – off grid, grid tied, multifamily/commercial, community solar

662 Tribal Participants (Identify as AI/AN)

Trained in solar installation on Tribal projects

50 Veterans

160 Identify as Female

58 reported GRID experience helped them get a job



GRID Alternatives

Partnership with the Spokane Nation

Four Demonstration Projects at New House Lane in 2015

- Introduced GRIP to Spokane Nation and Housing Authority
- Worked with Sovereign Power and SIHA on every aspect of the project
- Good project prior to larger development
- Systems on and saving \$\$



Spokane Nation - Wellpinit, WA

~650kW

- 9 Tribal Buildings
- 23 residential units

Workforce Development

- TERO Office
- Housing Employees
- Interns

COSSI Celebration
Video





The installation also provided hands-on training for tribal community members

Spokane Tribe solar installation

Unlisted

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ahJxlBTZIfU&feature=youtu.be>

Partners

- Spokane Indian Housing Authority
- Jason Campbell and Sovereign Power and the Spokane Nation
- John Clancy, Godfrey Kahn
- Office of Indian Energy
- Sunvest
- Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund



How did we get here?

- **Regular meetings**
- **Project Scope, contractual responsibilities and parameters**
- **Site Visits**
- **Design and Engineering--AVISTA**
- **Procurement**
- **Construction**
- **TERO**
- **Training vision from SIHA and the Tribe**
- **Logistics and dates**



Construction and Install

- Big project, big timeline
- Housing Authority and Spokane Nation, very accommodating and access
- Tim Horan, Clyde Abrahamson and Stephen Tsoodle
- Ed Nicodemus
- O&M
- Big Impact
- A lot of fun



Lessons Learned & Positive Outcomes

Lessons Learned

- Realistic timelines and expectations
- Big project, lots of project management and fieldwork
- Travel
- Very beautiful but rural and lack of cell service often
- Be able to deal with the curveballs (no shows, weather, etc...)

Positive Outcomes

- Families saving money
- Workforce Development
 - Several people forklift certified
 - SIHA now has employees trained in solar



Keys to making it work



- **Trust in all of the partners**
- **(Over)communicate on multiple levels**
- **Clear expectations**
- **Be adaptable**

GRID Alternatives

2021 Project

Upcoming Project

- Worked together on grant and awarded by OIE
- Very similar partners
- Larger scope and more familiarity
- More skill development for Tribal citizens



Thank You



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