

GRID Alternatives Colorado 2017 WE Build Retreat FAQ

1. Who is GRID Alternatives?

GRID Alternatives is a nonprofit solar installer, whose mission is to make renewable energy technology and job training accessible to underserved communities. You can find out more about our organization at www.gridalternatives.org.

2. What is the WE Build Retreat?

[WE Build](#) is one of GRID's workforce initiatives, focused on bringing more women into the solar industry and supporting them in their professional advancement. The WE Build Retreat is GRID Colorado's flagship event to support this initiative. It is a weekend-long event (camping overnight from Friday evening-Sunday morning) that brings together women from across the solar/renewable energy industry to facilitate hands-on solar installation training and networking with other women to support them in their careers. The theme for the 2017 Retreat is "She Shines," highlighting how women can shine at every point in their careers. A general weekend schedule is provided below:

- Friday evening: Arrive, check-in, set up tent, welcome dinner and ice-breakers
- Saturday (daytime): Install solar!
- Saturday evening: Happy hour, dinner, panel presentation, and group discussions focused on how women can support each other in their careers)
- Sunday morning: Wrap-up and reflections, optional activities

The 2017 Retreat will focus around a 1.9 Megawatt community solar project GRID is installing in Fort Collins with the Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association. This project will offset electricity costs for 700+ income-qualified households as well as numerous local nonprofits.

3. Who can participate?

The WE Build Retreat is open to any person who identifies as a woman, and who is either in the solar industry or interested in the industry. We encourage participation by women at every point in their career from newbie to student to entry level to executive.

4. When is the Retreat?

Friday August 4th - Sunday August 6th.

Please plan to arrive between 4pm and 6pm on Friday for check-in (see below for where). The event will conclude by noon on Sunday.

5. Where is the Retreat?

The 2017 Retreat will focus around a 1.9 Megawatt community solar project GRID is installing in Fort Collins. The home base will be [Boyd Lake State Park](#), a park and campground in Loveland. This is where you will arrive Friday evening for check-in, and where participants will stay during the Retreat.

6. How much does it cost, and what does that cover?

The cost of the Retreat is \$150 per person, and payment can be made through the registration page. This covers GRID's costs for lodging (camping), food, and training and professional development activities. However we encourage everyone to fundraise above and beyond this (see below). *The \$150 fee is due by July 15th, 2017.*

7. Are scholarships available? Yes! We want this event open to ALL women who want to participate and scholarships are available to cover the cost of the event. Please reach out to GRID's Workforce Development Manager, Allison Moe, for more information at amoe@gridalternatives.org or 303-481-4384.

8. Do I have to fundraise?

WE Build Retreat participants can pay for their event costs (\$150) themselves, or they can fundraise to cover these costs. GRID has made it easy for each participant to set up their own fundraising webpage which they can send to friends, family or coworkers to encourage them to donate.

GRID encourages all participants to donate or fundraise above the base fee. Our goal is to raise \$7,500 in additional fundraising, to help support GRID's job training programs generally.

GRID also welcomes donations from companies and can provide sponsorship levels and benefits upon request. Contact Leslie Proudfoot at lproudfoot@gridalternatives.org to learn more.

9. Are donations tax-deductible?

We are a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization and your donation is tax-deductible within the guidelines of U.S. law. Your gift supports GRID Alternatives Colorado, and a portion covers the cost of food, lodging, and professional development activities during the WE Build Retreat. Please consult with your tax adviser to determine the deductibility of your gift pursuant to relevant tax law. Please reach out to Leslie Proudfoot at lproudfoot@gridalternatives.org to request a tax acknowledgement letter.

10. Where do we stay/sleep during the Retreat?

GRID has booked campsites for all participants at the [Boyd Lake State Park Campground](#). If you are not comfortable camping, you are welcome to make your own accommodations elsewhere, however please contact GRID to let us know. *We are encouraging people to camp in order to foster community spirit, and will not provide a discount to those who are not camping.* More details on camping will be sent to participants in the weeks leading up to the event.

11. Can I bring my husband/ child/ dog?

Please do not bring pets or family members to the event, unless you are planning to book your own lodging. Only event registrants will be allowed on site, and at morning and evening events.

12. Do I need to bring my own camping gear?

If you have your own camping gear (tent and sleeping bag) please plan to bring this.

If you don't own your own gear, don't worry! GRID will have additional tents and sleeping bags available for those who need them. We will send out a survey to all participants to make sure we know what people need.

A full packing list will be sent out in the weeks leading up to the event.

13. Is food provided?

All meals are provided from Friday evening (dinner) through Sunday morning (breakfast).

Vegetarian options will be available, *however if you have special dietary needs please plan to bring snacks and options that will work for you.*

14. Is transportation provided?

Transportation to and from the event is not provided. However GRID will be organizing carpools, to minimize the number of cars entering into the state park and travelling to and from the job site. Watch for information on carpooling in the weeks leading up to the event.

15. What clothing or other supplies do I need to bring?

- Camping: If you have a tent or sleeping bag please plan to bring this with you.
- Clothing: You are required to wear *long pants (jeans, hiking pants, cargo pants, etc) and sturdy closed-toed shoes (hiking boots or work boots)* on the solar install site. GRID will provide a shirt for Saturday. For the rest of the weekend, wear clothing that is comfortable and that you don't mind getting dirty (remember, we're camping!). However it is important to know that the weather in Colorado can vary and change quickly, and temperatures can get down into the 40s at night. *So be sure to bring lots of layers*, including a warm coat and rain jacket.
- Food: Meals are provided all weekend, but we encourage you to bring your own snacks. Vegetarian options will be available, *however if you have special dietary needs please plan to bring snacks and options that will work for you.* Also, we encourage everyone to bring a reusable water bottle for the weekend.

A full packing list will be sent out in the weeks leading up to the event.

16. What happens if there is bad weather?

The WE Build Retreat will be held almost entirely out of doors so it is weather dependent. Mild rain will be manageable for installation and we have indoor back-ups for programming. If weather is so poor we cannot safely install solar or camp, we will put our best effort into holding a one-day rescheduling of the installation and as much of the programming as is feasible. If WE Build participants cannot make the rescheduled date, their fee will be considered a full donation and will not be refunded.