

GRID ALTERNATIVES
INLAND EMPIRE

2023 IMPACT REPORT

EXPANDED EDITION



COMMUNITY-DRIVEN SOLUTIONS
FOR A RENEWABLE FUTURE



GRID
ALTERNATIVES
Inland Empire

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MISSION STATEMENT

To build community-powered solutions to advance economic and environmental justice through renewable energy.

VISION STATEMENT

We envision a rapid, equitable transition to a world powered by renewable energy that benefits everyone.

LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Hi there!

Wow, this year marks 20 years since Tim Sears and I started GRID Alternatives, and we are so grateful for the many individuals who have joined us on this journey to creating a just transition to clean energy for everyone.

It's amazing to see our dream of bringing people together and building bridges toward energy equity all over the world come to life right here in the US and internationally.

Over the past couple of decades, we have worked together to bring no-cost or low-cost solar to thousands of families living in our most vulnerable communities, like Darnita in Washington DC. She wanted to be part of the green movement and to receive the benefits that come from renewable energy, so GRID repaired her roof and installed solar at no cost, saving her money!

We have built a workforce pipeline in these same communities to ensure that the folks leading our country to a greener and more sustainable future reflect the true diverse fabric of our nation, like Jinicia in San Diego. After losing her 20-year career during the COVID-19 pandemic, she learned about GRID's free Installation Basics Training program through a flyer in the mail. Now, Jinicia works as a solar installer at GRID San Diego and aspires to become an electrician.



We've also educated our country's lawmakers on effective public policy and advocated with coalitions to move to a just transition.

We've continued driving our clean mobility efforts forward by connecting more communities with electric cars, EV chargers, and now, e-bikes through the Berkeley E-Bike Equity Project in partnership with Waterside Workshops.

It's an honor to do this work in partnership with you, and we're excited for GRID's future.

Starting in 2024, we will invest in more communities, including workforce development training in Portland, Nashville, and Puerto Rico. Plus... deploying millions of dollars to Tribal Nations to ensure the protection of their energy sovereignty.

Efforts to address environmental justice are at the core of our work, and we're inviting you to join GRID as we continue to build bridges toward an equitable transition to clean energy and a world powered by the sun!

Erica Mackie

**CEO and Co-Founder
GRID Alternatives**

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2023, GRID Alternatives Inland Empire built on its history of **firsts**. We installed the **first** Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing (SOMAH) on tribal land, graduated our **first** Installation Basic Training 200 (IBT 200) graduates, and installed the **first** microgrid project through the California Energy Commission's EPIC program in partnership with the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians.

We continue to **deepen** and **widen** our impact by partnering and engaging with various tribal nations, cities, agencies, and unincorporated communities in Riverside, San Bernardino, and Inyo counties. This allowed us to install over 1.1 megawatts of clean energy on single-family, multifamily, and commercial projects and fully utilize our Clean Tech Training Center (CTTC).

In 2023, we leveraged these projects and the CTTC to train over 380 individuals in renewable energy for a total of 6,593 hours.

Each watt of energy we install will have lasting economic benefits for the communities we serve and decrease our reliance on harmful pollutants that threaten our health and our planet. Each individual trained enters the renewable energy sector with the experience and skills needed to pursue a family-sustaining career.

This work would not be possible without the support and commitment of our funders and partners, who give us their trust and allow us to innovate. It would also not be possible without



the dedication and care of our staff, who approach the work with integrity and a collaborative spirit. Together, our stakeholders help us to ensure environmental and economic justice communities get a fair share of the benefits from the renewable energy transition. For that, we are deeply appreciative.

As we take on new and innovative projects in the years to come, we will look to add to our legacy of firsts as we move toward a rapid, equitable transition to renewable energy **FOR ALL**.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jaime Alonso".

Jaime Alonso
Executive Director
GRID Alternatives Inland Empire



OUR TOP SUPPORTERS IN 2023

GRID Alternatives Inland Empire's government grants, foundation investments, corporate partnerships, and community leadership empower local sustainable solutions. Thanks to our external stakeholders, GRID is able to make renewable energy technologies and job training for the growing green economy accessible to everyone. Thank you to all our supporters who help fund critical programs and services that bring our shared vision to reality.

- U.S. Department of Energy
- U.S. Green Building Council
- California Department of Community Services and Development
- California Air Resources Board
- California Climate Investments
- California Strategic Growth Council
- California Governor's Office of Business & Economic Development
- California Governor's Office of Planning & Research
- Bishop Paiute Tribe
- Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians
- San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
- Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians
- Chemehuevi Indian Tribe
- Timbisha Shoshone Tribe (Death Valley)
- Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
- Big Pine Paiute Tribe of Owens Valley
- County of Riverside, Department of Housing and Workforce Solutions
- County of Riverside, Community Action Partnership
- City of Ontario
- City of Riverside
- City of Coachella
- City of Moreno Valley
- Sunrun
- Enphase
- Edison International
- Bank of America
- Wells Fargo
- U. S. Bank
- Citizens Business Bank
- Pacific Premier Bank
- Kaiser Permanente
- The JPB Foundation
- James Irvine Foundation
- Rose Foundation
- Golden State Environmental Justice Alliance
- Honda U.S.A. Foundation

GRID IE BOARD MEMBERS



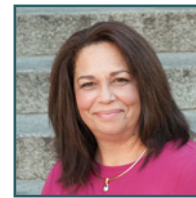
George E. Puddephatt, President, *Board Member since September 2018*

George Puddephatt is a highly skilled nonprofit and government-sector manager with over 25 years experience. He was pivotal in developing solar workforce training programs with Riverside County Workforce Development Center as well as securing grant and investment funding for the development of special needs housing projects.



Blaine Boyer, Treasurer, *Board Member since September 2018*

Blaine Boyer has an extensive career in education. For the past 20 years he has been a teacher at Rancho Vista Continuation High School in Temecula where some of his accomplishments include receiving 'Teacher of the Year' awards and receiving \$10,000 in grants to create a Solar/Green energy program.



Michelle Pierce, Secretary, *Board Member since September 2018*

Michelle Pierce is an Electric Vehicle Consultant who formed her company, EV Nirvana, LLC, in 2016 to encourage the use of plug-in electric vehicles. EV Nirvana offers consulting and outreach services with a focus on teaching customers about electric cars.



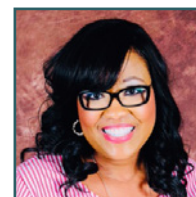
Alexander Saucedo, *Board Member since January 2019*

Alex Saucedo has been a financial services leader for the past 10 years with a strong passion to making positive impacts on team members, customers and the communities he serves. He is currently a Community Banking Manager at U.S. Bank in Rancho Cucamonga.



Kari H'Orvath, *Board Member since November 2022*

Kari H'Orvath is a real estate broker licensed since 2004. She received her B.A. Degree in Business Administration and a certificate in Leadership Studies from California Baptist University. Kari is the director of homeownership and education programs at Habitat for Humanity Inland Valley.



Vikita Poindexter, *Board Member since November 2022*

Vikita Poindexter, SPHR-CA, SHRM-SCP, SHRM-CP, CEO, Poindexter Consulting Group, LLC: Known throughout her 35-plus years' career as the consummate professional and go-to person for Human Resources. Vikita is acknowledged as an expert in her field. In addition, she is a much sought-after public speaker.



Tracy Woodburn, *Board Member since November 2022*

Tracy Woodburn is a skilled and passionate solar professional. He got his start in the industry as a volunteer for GRID Alternatives, where he completed two internships and honed his skills. With 7 years of experience, Tracy holds several NABCEP certifications, which recognize his expertise in the field of solar energy.

IMPACT



The Inland Empire (IE) covers more than 37,540 square miles, and most of the area's population is located in the southwest of San Bernardino County and the west of Riverside County. The IE is known as a major manufacturing and shipping hub in California—but has among the state's highest poverty and unemployment rates, along with one of the worst air quality rates.

GRID Alternatives Inland Empire works closely with its communities to bring people-first clean energy solutions through no-cost solar, EV and EV charging programs

and workforce development opportunities that train individuals wanting to join the solar industry. They also work with local tribal nations by providing renewable energy technologies that build bridges to energy sovereignty.

Since April 2011, GRID Alternatives Inland Empire has been helping underserved families save, providing hands-on experience for people interested in the solar industry, and promoting environmental benefits by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and raising environmental consciousness.

2023

\$5 million

In community member savings

165

Single-family homes served

5

Multifamily & commercial projects

170

Projects completed

1,072

DC kilowatt hours produced

18,325

Tons of greenhouse gas emissions prevented

17

Tribal projects

386

Workforce program participants

SINCE 2011

\$83 million

In community member savings

2,529

Single-family homes served

21

Multifamily & commercial projects

2,556

Projects completed

13,055

DC kilowatt hours produced

218,175

Tons of greenhouse gas emissions prevented

394

Tribal projects

4,588

Workforce program participants



Single Family Projects



Retired Eastside Couple Goes Solar in Riverside with TCC and GSEJA Funding

“I think there are a lot of people in my community who would like this program. This opportunity does not come every day—it all depends on funding,” says Steven Chung, a happily married retiree in the Eastside community of Riverside.



[ABOVE] GRID IE's **Alejandra Guillen-Garcia**, Senior Outreach Coordinator, **Yoselyn Eckert**, Outreach Manager, with **Patricia** and **Steven Chung**, homeowners, on the day of their solar installation

Through the Eastside Climate Collaborative, a partnership funded by the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program, Steven and his wife Patricia are the second homeowners to receive solar as part of the 410kW-DC solar installation grant for up to 100 income-qualified single-family homes within the TCC Riverside project area.

On the final day of their installation, Steven and Patricia welcomed community members to join their solar installation and learn more about GRID's no-cost solar program. *“We were so excited when we heard about this program that we immediately responded to the flier on our front door. We're lucky that we got approved early—everything is becoming real today!”* Shares the smiling couple.

Alongside GRID's construction crew, Solar Futures students from Desert Hot Springs High School REAL Academy joined the installation for hands-on solar training. *“It's so great that GRID is teaching young ones how to do this work,”* said Patricia, who spent a portion of her career working with youth programs in the Inland Empire.

“Being from Malaysia, we wanted to move somewhere where we could experience a new environment and community. We knew that the weather in Riverside was hot, but to us, that meant plenty of sunshine and a solar system that will work great!” Expresses Steven.

We asked the Chungs what surprised them most about GRID's solar program. *“It was free! We wouldn't have been able to afford it otherwise. We were especially surprised that there is no lien attached to our home's solar.”*

Thanks to funding from TCC Riverside and the additional gap funding provided by Golden State Environmental Justice Alliance (GSEJA), Steven and Patricia look forward to using their solar-powered air conditioning this summer.



GRID IE's **Daniel Montero**, Solar Installation Supervisor, with **Steven Chung** homeowner. On the roof from GRID IE's Construction Team, **Jeremiah Lee** and **Francisco PratsRamos**



Solar Future students from Desert Hot Springs High School REAL Academy

“We try to be mindful when using water and power since energy bills can get high. Even now that we have solar, we still plan on being as energy efficient as possible,” says Steven, whose 30-year career in the water department taught him that even renewable energy could result in high bills if not used conservatively.

The appreciative couple adds: *“Alejandra, our GRID Outreach Coordinator, has been so committed to helping us since we qualified for solar. Her follow-up and communication have been great—she's done a fine job! Also, the GRID Solar Installation Supervisor, Angel, is experienced and clearly explained every step to us.”*

As the big day came to an end, Steven and Patricia summarized their experience going solar with GRID IE: *“It's been amazing. We love our community and city. These programs educate us—even though we are old, we never stop learning.”*

GRID Alternatives Inland Empire partners with the City of Riverside on the Eastside Climate Collaborative, having been awarded **\$1,988,000** to install **410kW**s of free solar for 100 income-qualified homeowners.

CHUNG FAMILY PROJECT IMPACT NUMBERS

\$19,600

Lifetime energy savings

73

Tons greenhouse gas emissions prevented

14

Cars taken off the road

1,690

Trees planted

Riverside Eastside Climate Collaborative is supported by California Strategic Growth Council's Transformative Climate Communities program with funds from California Climate Investments—Cap-and-Trade Dollars at Work.



GRID IE's Transformative Climate Community Ontario Solar Showcase Shines

GRID Alternatives Inland Empire is a proud partner with the **City of Ontario** in its implementation of the city's Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) program grant.

The TCC grant is an innovative investment in community-scale climate action with broad implications. Launched in 2017 by the California State Legislature, TCC funds the implementation of neighborhood-level transformative plans that include multiple coordinated projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The program is also designed to provide an array of local economic, environmental, and health benefits to disadvantaged communities while minimizing the risk of displacement. TCC empowers the communities most impacted by pollution to choose their own goals, strategies, and projects to enact transformational change.

GRID IE is proud to be directly involved as a partner to the City of Ontario by implementing two distinct projects, collectively referred to as Ontario SHINE (Solar Homes Initiative & Neighborhood Empowerment), to enhance the generation of local renewable energy by installing up to 700 kilowatts of DC-rated (kW-DC) solar PV panels on the roofs of residential buildings, all at no cost to property owners. A total of 360 kW-DC will be installed on single-family homes, and 340 kW-DC will be installed on multifamily affordable housing.

The TCC Solar Showcase is designed to highlight GRID IE's involvement in the local community and to engage, support, and educate the local residents about the opportunities available to them within the Ontario TCC area, including if they are eligible for no-cost solar under the Ontario SHINE program.

On the morning of the Solar Showcase, GRID IE's staff were out in the local neighborhood knocking on doors and following up with local residents that had received an informational postcard the previous week inviting them to the Solar Showcase. GRID IE's team was able to answer questions for residents and also personally invite them to come and see the benefits of no-cost solar for themselves at the home of their neighbor Armandina Rodriguez, who



Armandina with her Outreach Coordinator, Alejandra

had graciously offered her home as the Solar Showcase location during her solar system installation on April 27th, 2023.

"Me pude comunicar con ustedes bien fácil" ("I could communicate with you all so easily"), said Armandina Rodriguez, who was pleasantly surprised that the majority of her solar project with GRID IE was carried out in Spanish, her preferred language. From her very first pre-screening phone call with GRID IE to the homeowner orientation and contract signing, Armandina was supported by GRID's bilingual Outreach Team every step of the way.

Armandina is the 45th recipient of GRID IE-installed, no-cost solar funded by TCC as part of Ontario Together, Ontario SHINE. "I heard about it through the monthly Ontario Living Magazine that the city sends out. My brother also let me know about it—he gave me a call and told me I should apply because I may qualify."

In her 20-year residency, Armandina is thankful to

the City of Ontario and her neighbors. *"The city helps with what I need. I didn't know about assistance programs before, but now that I do—they've been so helpful."* Through GRID IE's partnership with the City of Ontario—the mission to transform lives by providing access to clean, renewable energy and hands-on job training in the community continues to strengthen.

"Projects like Armandina's really highlight the benefits of leveraging funding from state programs like TCC with philanthropic contributions like those from Invenergy, whose support helped cover the costs of the roof and electrical improvements needed to get this project complete, and that will help lower the Rodriguez family's energy bill for many years to come." Commented Jaime Alonso, GRID IE's Executive Director.

In hopes of sharing the valuable program with others, Armandina invited her community to participate in her solar installation at the showcase, which was conducted in both English and Spanish.

Excited for lower energy bills as the months get warmer, Armandina exclaimed, *"I am so happy to be getting solar panels! I would recommend this program so that other people can save on their electric bill."*

GRID IE's Community Development Officer, Victoria Pacheco, was delighted with the turn out to the event, noting the presence of many VIP guests, including Julianne Sumiko Hines, District Director for Senator Susan Rubio; Nadya Bahena, Field Representative for Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez; Nicole Cartwright, TCC Grant Manager with the California Department of Conservation; Jess Ison, TCC Program Associate with the California Strategic Growth Council; and Nadine Houde, City of Ontario TCC Program Administrator.

The VIPs were joined at the event by several members of the local community, neighbors of Armandina, many staff members from GRID IE, and students from Arroyo Valley CORE (Constructing Opportunities in Renewable Energy) Academy in San Bernardino—who were undergoing hands-on training as part of GRID IE's Solar Futures program at Armandina's installation.





[ABOVE] Nadya Bahena presenting Amandina and GRID IE with California Legislature Certificates of Recognition from Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez
[BELOW] Julianne Sumiko Hines presenting Armandina and GRID IE with State of California Senate Certificates of Recognition from Senator Susan Rubio



The Rodriguez family home was an ideal location for the TCC Ontario Solar Showcase for many reasons, but one reason stood large among the rest—directly across the street from Amendina’s home stands the newly completed Vista Verde Apartments, a showcase project for the City of Ontario. Vista Verde is the first all-electric, zero net energy affordable housing community in Ontario. It provides 101 high-quality apartments for families who earn between 30-60% of the Area Median Income (AMI). GRID IE staff, led by Neil Warren as Solar installation Supervision during his original time with GRID IE, and SolarCorps Fellows installed 380 kilowatts of solar on Vista Verde, making the development both all-electric and zero net energy—meaning that it generates more energy than it uses. The rooftop and carport solar will save residents hundreds of thousands of dollars over the next 20 years.



RODRIGUEZ FAMILY PROJECT IMPACT NUMBERS

\$39,800
Lifetime energy savings

104
Tons greenhouse gas emissions prevented

20
Cars taken off the road

2,420
Trees planted

GRID IE staff, led by Victoria Pacheco, Alejandra Guillen-Garcia, Senior Outreach Coordinator, Nika Hogue, Development Manager, and Erik Rodriguez Cerda, Workforce Programs Coordinator, addressed the attendees of the event to thank them for their attendance and to reinforce the important mission of GRID IE in our local communities; and the importance of the TCC projects and their direct impact on the lives of residents.

To express the importance of the event—and the people and programs being showcased—Nadya Bahena presented both Amandina and GRID IE with California Legislature Certificates of Recognition from Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, and Julianne Sumiko Hines presented both Armandina and GRID IE with State of California Senate Certificates of Recognition from Senator Susan Rubio.

Throughout the Solar Showcase event and festivities, GRID IE’s construction staff, led by Danny Montero, Solar Installation Supervisor, were working high above on the roof installing the no-cost solar system that Amendina and her family were receiving. Also on the roof and supervised by both Danny and GRID IE’s newest and also returning staff member Neil Warren, Solar Installation Training Officer, were students from the Arroyo Valley CORE Academy. GRID IE’s Cindy Corales, Workforce Development Director, led tours of the site for all the guests. They were able to get a close-up look at this important work and see for themselves the results of the TCC grant program in action. In addition to working on-site alongside GRID IE’s construction staff, students can now train at GRID IE’s new Clean Tech Training Center (CTTC) located at GRID IE’s facility in Riverside, which vastly expands hands-on and classroom training opportunities for clean energy technology in the Inland Empire.

Vista Verde, like the Rodriguez home, was funded by the Ontario SHINE program, a key element of the TCC Ontario grant. Becky Bolton, Community Manager at Vista Verde, led the attendees on a tour of this impressive property. In conjunction with GRID IE’s Neil Warren, they demonstrated the importance of solar to the zero net energy building and the impact this has on the day-to-day lives of the residents.

The TCC Ontario Solar Showcase event successfully demonstrated the importance and impact that large state and city-level programs have on residents, both as homeowners and as renters in Multifamily homes.

GRID Alternatives Inland Empire has been awarded **\$3,000,000** as part of the City of Ontario TCC grant to install **360kW**s of solar on 100 single-family homes and **340kW**s on multi-family affordable housing.

Ontario SHINE is supported by California Strategic Growth Council’s Transformative Climate Communities program with funds from California Climate Investments—Cap-and-Trade Dollars at Work.





Tribal Projects



The Big Pine Paiute Tribe celebrates Earth Day and the installation of solar on a vital community resource

The **Big Pine Paiute Tribe** of the Owens Valley enthusiastically observed Earth Day by welcoming the sun thanks to a grant from the GRID Alternatives Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund (TSAF).

The Tribe is working with GRID Alternatives Inland Empire, a local non-profit, as well as local contractor Highpoint Solar, to install electricity-generating solar panels on the roof of the Tribe's Alan Spoonhunter Memorial Gymnasium. The Gym is vital to the local Tribal community and is utilized throughout the year for various community activities and events, and houses ongoing daycare and after-school educational programs.

Utilizing solar-generated electricity at this facility is expected to save the Tribe thousands of dollars annually in electricity costs.

Tribal members joined the GRID IE's staff for a ribbon-cutting at the Alan Spoonhunter Memorial Gymnasium on Sunday, April 23rd, 2023. Many Earth Day festivities happened in conjunction with celebrating this transition to solar power.



Tribal Trainees: Doree Richards and JoAnna Attakai

Two Tribal trainees gained hands-on experience installing solar on the Gym. Through educational programs provided by GRID IE, trainees learn essential and transferable skills relevant to our green energy future.

The installation of solar on the Alan Spoonhunter Memorial Gymnasium is the second largest solar project on the Big Pine Indian Reservation. Three years ago, also thanks to the Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund, solar panels were installed to offset the Tribe's domestic water system electricity usage.



[ABOVE] Solar panels installed on the Alan Spoonhunter Memorial Gymnasium.
[BELOW] Close up of the solar panels on the roof.

Since 2010, the GRID Alternatives National Tribal Program has worked to help tribal communities across the United States achieve their renewable energy goals while training tribal members to enter the solar workforce. In 2018, GRID launched the Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund, a tribal-led philanthropic grant making program supporting new solar projects in tribal communities across the country. TSAF grants clearly focus on building renewable energy infrastructure, particularly new solar energy projects in tribal communities, that are feasible, cost-effective, and engage broad tribal community participation.



Tribal Council member RoseAnne Moose cuts the ribbon

BIG PINE PAIUTE TRIBE PROJECT IMPACT NUMBERS

\$303,000

Lifetime energy savings

450

Tons greenhouse gas emissions prevented

86

Cars taken off the road

10,500

Trees planted



GRID IE and Bishop Paiute Tribe Reach Goal: Over 200 Homes with Solar!

In March 2023, the Bishop Paiute Tribal Environmental Management Office (EMO), in partnership with GRID Alternatives Inland Empire, announced they had met their goal of installing solar on over 200 out of a planned 400 homes for qualified Tribal members on the small reservation.



The **Bishop Paiute Tribe**, located at the foot of the Eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains, is committed to self-sufficiency and self-reliance as a sovereign nation. The Tribe has developed a strong partnership with GRID IE since 2015. The EMO has sought to promote environmental stewardship through proactive approaches such as providing public awareness and collaboration with programs such as the GRID IE solar program.

GRID IE envisions a rapid, equitable transition to a world powered by renewable energy that benefits everyone. Our mission is to build community-powered solutions to advance economic and environmental justice through renewable energy.

Since 2011, GRID IE has installed over 2,300 solar systems in the region for income-qualified homeowners with funding from the Disadvantaged Communities Single-Family Solar Homes (DAC-SASH) program, a California program administered by GRID. In addition to the DAC-SASH funding for the 200 Tribal projects, the Bishop Paiute Tribe has also contributed funding. The Tribe has collaborated with GRID IE and raised additional grant funds to provide direct support for the solar installations from the Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy (DOE), private donors, corporate sponsors, and funding from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

“The no-cost solar power installations make an incredible difference in the everyday lives of our community members. The savings from the installations are making a real impact, especially for tribal members in the greatest need. This is a large step towards becoming more self-sufficient. We now look forward to expanding our continued partnership with GRID IE by adding a new goal of serving essential tribal facilities with resilient PV renewables and battery storage by 2025.” Said Mr. Brian Adkins, Tribal EMO Director.

The financial and environmental impact of the 200+ solar systems—estimated over the system’s 20-year lifetime is expected to save tribal homeowners nearly \$3,000,000 in energy costs. The estimated reduction in greenhouse gas is 6,250 tons, equivalent to planting over 145,000 trees or taking 1,200 cars off the road.

Beyond the environmental and direct financial savings, a crucial part of the GRID IE program is the economic benefits provided by on-the-job training for tribal members. GRID IE works with the Bishop Paiute Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO) to offers hands-on solar installation training to local tribal members. The training program has led to employment and high-paying careers in the growing solar industry. To date, the Bishop Paiute Tribe has had 68 trainees and 10 tribal members who have been employed following training.

This initiative is part of GRID Alternatives’ National Tribal Program. A program that has worked since 2010 to help Tribal communities across the United States achieve their renewable energy goals. Using a community-centric approach, GRID partners with Tribes to identify, develop, finance, and implement solar power projects that meet community needs, including education, hands-on training, and energy cost reductions for tribal members.



BISHOP PAIUTE TRIBE PROJECT IMPACT NUMBERS

\$3 million

Lifetime energy savings

6,250

Tons greenhouse gas emissions prevented

1,200

Cars taken off the road

145,000

Trees planted

Historic FIRST Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing project completed on Tribal land



From left to right: **Marisa Villarreal**, SOMAH Program Manager, **Amy Smith**, CFO, Highpoint Solar, **Brian Adkins**, Environmental Director of the Bishop Paiute Tribe, **Lisa Castilone**, GRID IE Director of Tribal Programs, **Christina Snider**, Tribal Affairs Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom, Commissioner **John Reynolds**, California Public Utilities Commission, and Chairwoman **Meryl Picard**, Bishop Paiute Tribal Council



At the foot of the Eastern Sierra Nevada mountains in Bishop, CA, sits the Bishop Paiute Tribe, the fifth largest California Tribe, with 2,000 members in one of the smallest land bases.

With limited land—renewable energy technology, energy sovereignty, and sustainability have been at the forefront of the Tribe's environmental development—and now, after installing solar on over 200 single-family homes—they are making history.

The Tribe became the first Tribal Nation to receive a solar installation incentive from the California Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing (SOMAH) program. In partnership with GRID Alternatives Inland Empire and

their workforce trainees, a 49 kW system was installed on Coyote Mountain Apartments, an affordable housing and sober living facility. Clean energy technology will save Tribal residents of this 24-unit complex almost \$500,000 on their energy bills over the system's lifetime.

On August 9th, 2023, representatives from the Tribal Affairs Office of Governor Gavin Newsom, the California Public Utilities Commission, GRID Alternatives Inland Empire, and the SOMAH program traveled to Bishop, CA, to join the Tribe at the Coyote Mountain Apartments for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the completion of this historic project.



Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing



Brian Adkins, Environmental Director of the Bishop Paiute Tribe

“We are a Tribe working towards climate goals to reduce carbon emissions alongside providing energy affordability for Tribal members living on the Bishop Paiute Reservation,” said Brian Atkins, Environmental Director of the Bishop Paiute Tribe. *“Energy affordability is a major issue in our community.”*

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Commissioner John Reynolds shared his enthusiasm about the completed project: *“I congratulate the Bishop Paiute Tribe and GRID for completing the first Tribal solar project under the SOMAH Program. This is exactly the kind of community-based and community-led solar project we need more of, and as the Public Utilities Commission considers ways to improve the SOMAH Program in the future, I hope we hear from Tribes and organizations like the ones here today about what we can do to make sure solar reaches everyone.”*

The Coyote Mountain solar installation represents a historical moment where SOMAH state funding, alongside a GRID Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund Sempra Foundation grant, and in-kind donations, were allocated toward a just transition to clean energy for a California Tribal Nation.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, American Indian land comprises 2% of U.S. land but contains an estimated 5% of all renewable energy resources.



[ABOVE] Commissioner **John Reynolds**, California Public Utilities Commission, speaking at the ribbon-cutting



[BELOW] The entrance to the Coyote Mountain Apartments in Bishop

“Highlighting this event, the partners, and giving that information to the other Tribal communities and leaders is going to be a huge help in spreading the word throughout Indian country,” said Meryl Picard, Tribal Chairwoman of the Bishop Paiute Tribe. *“Bishop Paiute is definitely willing to have those conversations with other Tribes about how we got that started so we can continue these partnerships throughout Indian country.”*

In 1912, the Bishop Paiute people, alongside other Indigenous Tribes, lived on a 67,000-acre reservation in the Owens Valley, a lush and bio-diverse land. Twenty years later, the U.S. government revoked these lands and placed the Paiute people on 875 acres—placing one of the largest tribal nations in California on one of the smallest reservations in the state.

Now, they stand by a culture of progressive development that highly values self-sufficiency and self-reliance and a commitment to being a strong, self-governing sovereign nation—a mission reflected in their current climate goals.

“Through savings from solar energy, residents at Coyote Mountain will have more disposable income to spend toward general living expenses like transportation and building their own savings,” said Atkins.



Chairwoman **Meryl Picard**, Bishop Paiute Tribal Council, speaking at the event

The Coyote Mountain solar installation also represents the importance of opportunities for multifamily homes, as Tribal Nations are primarily single-family homes, leaving out renters.

“Single and multifamily renters usually have no opportunities to benefit from solar. The SOMAH Program brings funding solutions and job training opportunities for income-qualified and affordable housing projects. It offers developers and building owners the assistance they need to develop solar projects while providing local workforce development opportunities.” Said Lisa Castilone, Director of Tribal Programs at GRID Inland Empire.



Lisa Castilone, GRID IE Director of Tribal Programs, speaking at the event

According to a study by the California Coalition for Rural Housing and the Rural Community Assistance Corporation, one-third of those who are living in Tribal areas in California live below the federal poverty line—more than twice the rate of the general population in California.

Also, many Native households live in single-family homes or mobile homes, with more than a third of families living in overcrowded conditions. Over 60% of these homes were built over three decades ago, and nearly one-fifth need significant physical improvements.

“GRID Alternatives works to identify the apartments in these disadvantaged communities and conduct outreach to those owners and developers,” said Castilone. **“Many Tribal communities are not getting the information they need to receive clean energy resources. It’s part of my job to ensure Tribal Nations in my region get the renewable energy solutions they need.”**

Not only did the Coyote Mountain solar installation make history, but it also created clean energy jobs. GRID’s Workforce Development Program trained tribal members in solar installation—readying them for a new career in clean energy and opening up employment opportunities directly with the local businesses.

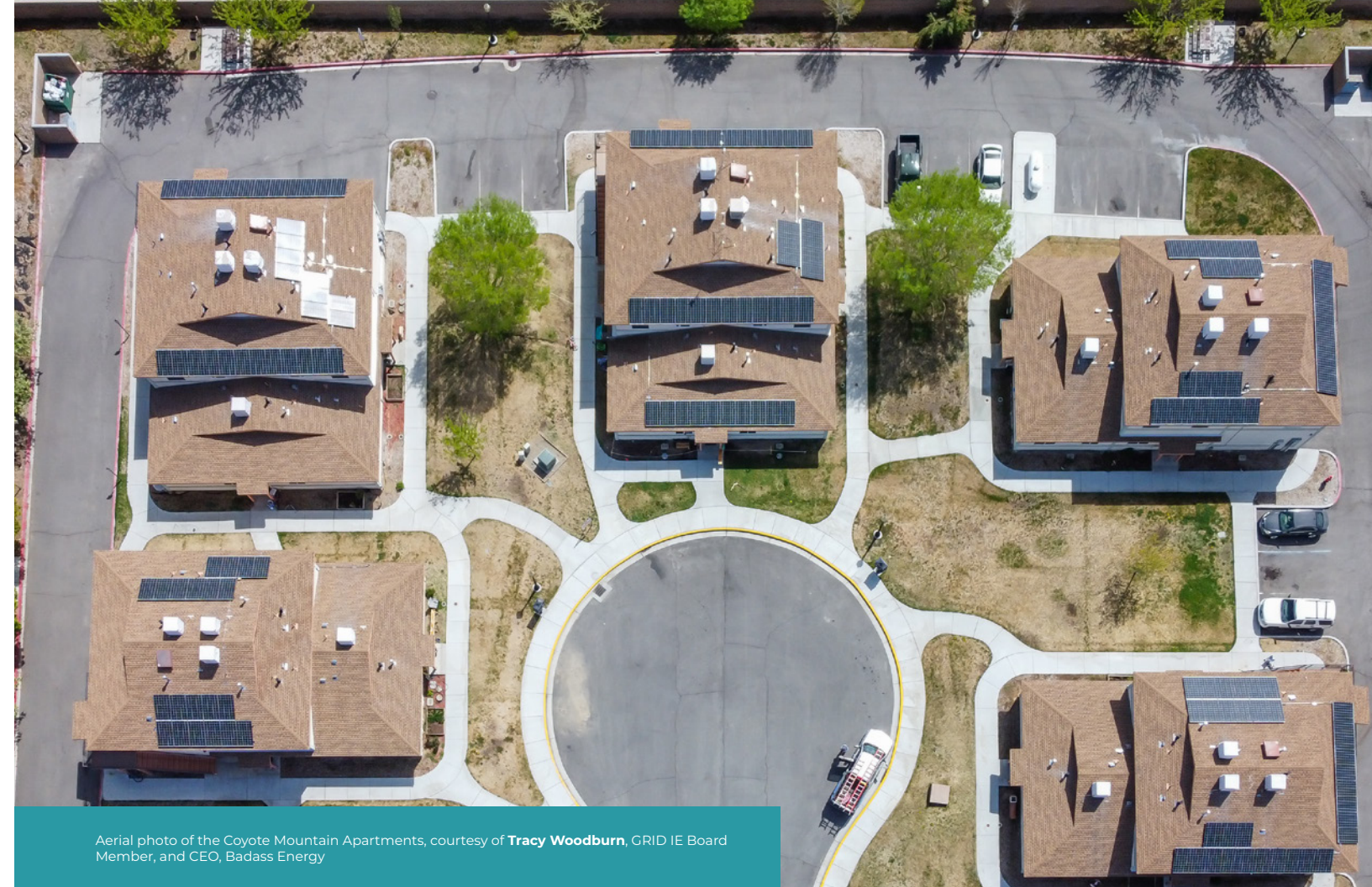
For GRID trainee Marika Arnell, her journey into the solar industry aligns with her passion for learning new skills and her desire to share space with her community.

Arnell was trained by GRID Alternatives and hired onto the Coyote Mountain project by Highpoint Solar. Before getting trained, she admits to knowing “zero” about how solar energy works, but through GRID-lead courses and hands-on experience, she now takes pride in being one of the few women on the roof.

“I am up there with the guys. Girls can do this too!” Said Arnell. **“It was good for me to have instructors who showed you how it’s done but then let you try it yourself.”**

Solar is on pace to employ 400,000 people in America by 2030, and the overall clean energy industry is expected to hire more than 900,000 workers by 2035 to reach the nation’s 100% clean electricity goal.

“Solar is the future, and we believe it is important to bring that to low-income communities. We take so much pride in helping people gain that future for themselves, regardless of their socioeconomic status,” said Amy Smith, CFO of Highpoint Solar. **“The community impact is so valuable. When we go on-site for an installation here on a Tribal Reservation, the cost savings those individuals get to take advantage of are huge.”**



Aerial photo of the Coyote Mountain Apartments, courtesy of Tracy Woodburn, GRID IE Board Member, and CEO, Badass Energy

Amy Smith, CFO of Highpoint Solar speaking at the event



“From our first solar installation with the Bishop Paiute Tribe ten years ago—to this most recent and historic solar project at the Coyote Mountain Apartments, GRID IE is proud of its decade-long partnership of delivering renewable energy solutions and job-training opportunities to Tribal residents,” said Jaime Alonso, Executive Director of GRID Alternatives Inland Empire. **“We look forward to deepening and widening our energy and job training working partnership with the Tribe for decades to come.”**

History has been made, but the work doesn’t stop. SOMAH and GRID Alternatives are set to install a second multifamily installation on the Arrowhead Apartments, a 14-unit building also for Bishop Paiute Tribal residents.

“SOMAH helps deliver the benefits of clean energy to people throughout California who don’t necessarily own their own homes. Providing access to these customers can help make energy more affordable and benefit both environmental and economic development,” said John Reynold, California Public Utilities Commission Commissioner.

BISHOP PAIUTE TRIBE PROJECT IMPACT NUMBERS

\$500,000

Lifetime energy savings

914

Tons greenhouse gas emissions prevented

197

Cars taken off the road

13,700

Trees planted



Workforce Projects



Historic first IBT 200 at GRID IE



[ABOVE] IBT 200 student with GRID IE training and construct staff on their first real-world solar installation

Many people know about GRID’s work helping green our planet—reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the installation of solar energy, and how GRID’s solar projects are centered around serving families and communities in need—but one thing folks often forget about, or may not often see, is the workforce programming that is tied to many of the infrastructure projects our Outreach and Construction teams work so hard to make happen at the residential and commercial level.

Our solar build sites have inherent value to career seekers in our community—and provide an opportunity to learn, grow, and build the confidence to pursue careers in the solar industry.

You may know that when GRID started over 20 years ago, the focus was to install solar electric systems for families in need at no-cost, utilizing borrowed tools from a tool-lending library and a team of community volunteers.



From left to right: the historic first cohort of IBT 200 students, Marco Morales, Gabriel Mendez, Jeffrey Brantley, Kevin Tohee, and Rio Garcia

Through GRID’s solar workforce programming:

- **We advocate** for our communities who are most impacted by economic and environmental injustice
- **We advocate** for clean energy careers that include everyone
- **We advocate** for clean energy careers that value safety
- **We advocate** for clean energy careers that value people
- **We advocate** for clean energy careers that are life and family sustaining
- **We advocate** for clean energy careers that offer opportunities for professional growth and upward mobility

The thriving volunteer program at GRID quickly became recognized by solar employers who sought out these experienced and trained volunteers to employ at their companies.

Out of that need and response from the industry, GRID grew its Workforce Programs over the past 10+ years.

GRID welcomes those seeking knowledge and the skills to enter the clean energy workforce—we welcome young people, women, tribal members, the justice-involved, the unemployed and underemployed, those with barriers to employment, veterans, and those looking for a new career.

We aim to engage a diverse community of learners with opportunities and careers in clean energy. We provide access to no-cost training and help connect people to solar and related clean energy careers with local employers.

On October 30th, 2023, we celebrated five individuals who have dedicated their time to completing GRID’s Installation Basics Training 200 program, or “IBT 200” for short. Jeffrey Brantley, Rio Garcia, Gabriel Mendez, Marco Morales, and Kevin Tohee.

IBT 200 is a 5-week, full-time, immersive training program with classroom instruction, warehouse lab activities, and real-world solar installations.

The five graduates spent 200 hours with our GRID Workforce and Construction staff learning about solar technology, climate change, tools and equipment, installation techniques, employment readiness skills—including building resumes, cover letters, mock interviews, interpersonal skills and communication, financial literacy basics, etc—OSHA 10, and CPR first aid.

These five individuals stuck with this training even when it got tough—because sitting in a classroom for 40 hours during the first week is not easy. Even when the roof got hot, and mistakes were made in the learning process out on the building site—these individuals showed up the next morning ready for another day on the build. Even when a new concept or technique was confusing or complicated, these individuals asked questions for clarification and kept working hard and learning.

We celebrate our first IBT 200 Cohort graduating from our GRID IE Clean Tech Training Center (CTTC).



[BELOW] IBT 200 students training on the CTTC mock roof



[ABOVE] **Cindy Corrales**, Workforce Development Director, addresses the IBT 200 Graduation audience
 [BELOW] **Sandra Romero**, Workforce and Training Manager, **Erik Rodriguez Cerda**, Workforce Programs Coordinator, and **Neil Warren**, Solar Installation Training Officer



[ABOVE] **Jeffrey Brantley**
 [BELOW] from left to right: **Jeffrey Brantley**, **Rio Garcia**, **Neil Warren**, **Gabriel Mendez**, **Marco Morales**, and **Kevin Tohee**

opportunities in an ever-growing industry, and to fill the entry-level training gaps in our local clean energy economy. We thank all our local solar employers who came out and attended our Solar Showcase event to meet our trainees and see them in action.

Our solar training program cannot work without the industry's interest and involvement in wanting to hire our trainees. We are thankful for the local employers who attended looking to hire.

It took the combined efforts of everyone who came to the CTTC on graduation day and even more people who couldn't attend—to make this happen. *Thank you, thank you, thank you!*

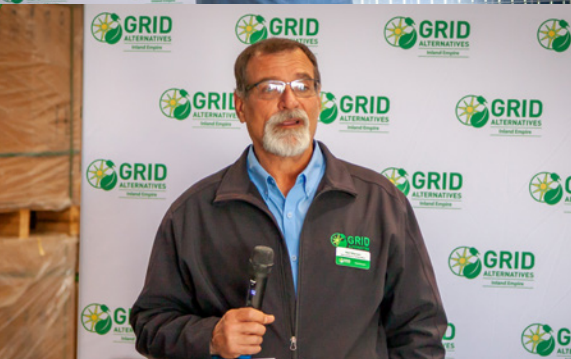
Many thanks go to **Cecilia Arias**,

Community Health Manager with **Kaiser Permanente**, for attending the graduation ceremony and presenting our graduates with their awards!

Each graduate received:

- An IBT 200 certificate of completion
- Their OSHA 10 card
- Their CPR/first aid/AED certificate and card
- A \$2,300 completion stipend award

Congratulations, Jeffery, Rio, Gabriel, Marco, and Kevin!
GRID IE's historic first IBT 200 graduation class!



It takes a team of people to ensure our trainees make it to graduation day. So, we also celebrate every person who helped support their learning, engagement, and ability to attend our training center daily.

Those people include our workforce and construction staff who, over these past five weeks, have been providing hours of instruction, coaching, and guidance for learning in the classroom, lab, and out on our build sites; we celebrate the family members and support systems who helped get our graduates to the training center for class or encouraged them to keep going, and we also celebrate our workforce partner agencies and case managers who provide critical wrap-around support services to ensure our trainees have transportation and other essential needs like boots or someone to talk to and think through upcoming life choices.

We thank them all and everyone who helped to ensure that these five

remarkable individuals could make it through training and to graduation successfully.

GRID IE would also like to thank our funders who provided the critical seed money to build out our Clean Tech Training Center, increase staff capacity, and support the expenses to run our very first IBT 200 cohort. Thank you, **U.S. Bank**, **Citizens Business Bank**, **Edison International**, **Kaiser Permanente**, **Bank of America**, **Pacific Premier Bank**, **Wells Fargo**, the **Honda USA Foundation**, the **James Irvine Foundation**, and the **Soboba Foundation**.

We believe in providing meaningful solar training and access to jobs at no-cost to our participants. Because of this support, we can do this work and make solar job training accessible to those who need and want it the most.

GRID IE does this because we believe in connecting good people in our communities to good career



Desert Hot Springs High School REAL Academy Students visit GRID IE's CTTC for a day of learning

Students from the Desert Hot Springs High School REAL Academy spent the day at the Clean Tech Training Center (CTTC) at GRID IE's Riverside location.

The students received hands-on classroom training on safety, tool usage, wiring, and conduit bending with GRID staff. They followed that with rack installation and solar panel mounting on the CTTC's dedicated mock roof.

"It feels like a full circle moment seeing our students participate on the mock roof—you can see their excitement as they're putting classroom

and hands-on experience together." – Jailene Vera, Workforce Solar Trainer.

Thank you, Desert Hot Springs High School REAL Academy students, for your dedication and hard work: Francisco, Marcos, Alejandro, Juan, William, Gabriel, and Pedro—we look forward to another successful visit!

Thank you Honda USA Foundation for your support of GRID Alternatives Inland Empire's Clean Tech Training Center!



Citizens Business Bank visits GRID IE's CTTC and students from the Arroyo Valley CORE Academy



Jess Tirado and Gary Mazzei from Citizens Business Bank, with GRID IE staff, and students from Arroyo Valley CORE (Constructing Opportunities in Renewable Energy) Academy in San Bernardino

GRID IE happily welcomed **Jess Tirado** and **Gary Mazzei** from **Citizens Business Bank** to tour our Clean Tech Training Center, and to introduce them to students from the Arroyo Valley CORE (Constructing Opportunities in Renewable Energy) Academy in San Bernardino who were at the CTTC training.

Citizens Business Bank is one of the inaugural sponsors of the CTTC, and without them, this incredible

training facility would not be in operation. Their support was key in providing the resources needed to build out the CTTC.

Citizens Business Bank is advancing work that aligns with GRID IE's mission to transform lives by providing access to clean renewable energy and hands-on job training.



Community Projects



GRID IE Supports the City of Riverside and Habitat for Humanity with a Solar System for Mulberry Village



Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity Riverside, **David Hahn**, addresses the crowd at the Mulberry Village ribbon-cutting ceremony



[ABOVE] View of Mulberry Village
[BELOW] Fire Chief **Michael Moore**, **Victoria Pacheco**, GRID IE Community Development Officer, Riverside Mayor **Patricia Lock Dawson**, and Senator **Richard Roth**



MULBERRY VILLAGE PROJECT IMPACT NUMBERS

\$109,010

Lifetime energy savings

208

Tons greenhouse gas emissions prevented

40

Cars taken off the road

4,839

Trees planted

In the City of Riverside, Mulberry Village, a small community of cottages were constructed by professional builders, sponsor groups, and volunteers—working side-by-side in a spirit of camaraderie to build safe, healthy, and affordable homes.

The project will provide stable and affordable housing, case management and supportive services based on client's needs, and an opportunity for homeless clients to graduate into permanent housing. The City Housing Authority will own and manage the project, which must remain affordable for 55 years and rented to persons earning at or below 50% of the Area Median Income.

Mulberry Village utilizes 'California Bungalow' style architecture, is consistent with the surrounding downtown neighborhood, and offers one-bedroom floor plans of approximately 400 square feet.

GRID IE is proud to be a partner on this project, providing a 16.4kW Solar System that covers all ten cottages with 40 roof-top solar panels. This system will produce 599,167 kWh of free electricity over its lifetime, equivalent to approximately \$110,000 in energy savings, 208 Tons of greenhouse gases eliminated, taking 40 cars off the road, or planting 4,839 trees.

GRID IE's Outreach Team organizes its fourth successful in-person workshop in 2023



Outreach Manager, **Yoselyn Eckert**, verifying program application documents with a workshop attendee

On September 21st, 2023, GRID Alternatives Inland Empire Outreach Team gathered in Ontario, California at the De Anza Community and Teen Center to set up their fourth in-person, solar application workshop. Since June of this year, GRID IE has worked with the City of Ontario to provide three previous in-person workshops, as well as one in the City of Riverside.

Through Ontario SHINE (Solar Homes Initiative & Neighborhood Empowerment), a partnership funded by the California Strategic Growth Council Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program, GRID IE is enhancing the generation of local renewable energy by installing up to 700 kilowatts of DC-rated (kW-DC) solar PV panels on the roofs of residential buildings, all at no-cost to property owners. A total of 360 kW-DC will be installed on single-family homes, and 340 kW-DC will be installed on multifamily affordable housing.

What is the importance of in-person workshops?

"In-person workshops help put a face to our organization, creating a sense of security, and fostering stronger connections among homeowners."—Zoe, Outreach Coordinator.

"Since COVID in-person events have been hard to do. Now, we get to meet our clients where they are at—which makes it more convenient for those who can't drive to our office, or who don't have the time to do so."—Alejandra, Senior Outreach Coordinator.

What barriers have your in-person efforts helped tackle?

"In-person workshops help homeowners get their questions answered right then and there, and allows them to apply right away if they would like. This helps them start the process quickly and confidently,



the sooner they can get started, the sooner they get savings on their utility bills."—Sam, Senior Outreach Coordinator.

"Our prescreen process involves asking homeowners about 10 to 15 questions in regards to their household size, income, and home. However, many feel cautious giving out information without learning about our program in more detail. In-person workshops help bridge this gap by providing a low-pressure environment where interested homeowners can drop in, learn more about the program, and fill out an application if they're interested."—Zoe.

What opportunity does having both English & Spanish workshops provide?

"Having both English and Spanish workshops helps because we get to help two parts of our community. Sometimes one person who speaks English will bring another person who speaks Spanish, and they simply attend our other workshop next door!"—Alejandra.

Why should homeowners apply for grant-funded solar?

"Homeowners should take advantage of the grant that was awarded to their city. No-cost solar is part of the grant, which will help them reduce their electric bill, as well as help the environment!"—Erica.

"The Transformative Climate Communities Grant is a great resource for homeowners looking to transition to renewable energy alternatives. Not only is there the option of no-cost solar, homeowners can also apply for other programs such as lawn replacement, free tree planting, and more—depending on the TCC grant in their specific city."—Sam.

"Homeowners should apply for grant-funded solar through GRID in their city because these are funds that are there for them to use in a specific amount of time—they will not always be there. They also assist in re-roofing for a solar-ready home, which means homeowners don't have to pay anything out of pocket."—Alejandra.

What three words describe how you felt at the application workshop, or—what was your favorite memory of the event?

"Engaged, happy, connected."—Zoe.

"Rewarded, happy, excited."—Erica, Outreach Coordinator.

"Accomplished, hopeful, and ready to get more involved in our TCC communities!"—Sam.

"My favorite moment of the event is the FAQ part at the end where attendees can ask questions. I enjoy helping people fully understand our program and funding."—Alejandra.

[ABOVE] **Zoe** (left), **Yoselyn** (middle), and **Ashley**, from the Outreach Team (right)
[BELOW] **Sam** (left) and **Alejandra** (right) reviewing frequently asked questions during the Application Workshop



Clean Air Day 2023 “Clean Energy = Clean Air” Youth Art Contest

In October 2023 GRID IE launched our “Clean Energy = Clean Air” Youth Art Contest as part of Clean Air Day!

The art contest launched on Clean Air Day, October 4, and submissions were due by Friday, October 28, 2023.

Local youth of Riverside, CA, were invited to submit art depicting images that champion the use of clean energy (like solar panels), clean air, and clean energy jobs (like solar installers).

This art activity was intended to have Riverside community members and youth spark a conversation about how clean energy technology and jobs can make clean air a reality for their community.

The selection and judging of the top three art projects was conducted in November of 2023.

We are proud to announce that the winner is **Hasaan Piert**, a student from **Martin Luther King High School**, Riverside, CA.

A huge thank you to all our young folks in the Riverside area who created and submitted art for this year’s contest. GRID IE would also like to recognize **Mr. Jeff Allbee**, Career Technical Education (CTE) Digital Arts Educator at Martin Luther King High School in Riverside, CA for engaging so many of his students to submit art.

Martin Luther King High School, Riverside, CA



CLEAN AIR FOR RIVERSIDE



The winning submission to the “Clean Energy = Clean Air” Youth Art Contest by **Hasaan Piert**



GRID
ALTERNATIVES
Inland Empire



Corporate Volunteer Projects



SPONSOR OF



GRID
ALTERNATIVES



U.S. Bank Team-Building Sponsored Volunteer Workday



From left to right: U.S. Bank volunteers Alfred, Robert, Lamia, Cassandra, Laurie, Alexander, and Hector, with Katherine up on the roof above



[ABOVE] U.S. Bank volunteers Cassandra, Laurie, and Katherine [LEFT] GRID IE Board Member and U.S. Bank Volunteer Alex

On April 25th, 2023, **U.S. Bank** and GRID Inland Empire collaborated on a successful Team-Building Sponsored Volunteer Workday in Ontario, California. Through this corporate partner opportunity, which funded support for GRID IE's work, employees from **U.S. Bank** participated hands-on by installing solar for the Gomez family.

Performing double duty at the installation was Alex Saucedo—who not only works at **U.S. Bank**, but is also currently serving as a GRID IE Board Member. Additionally, **U.S. Bank** has awarded GRID IE a

tremendous opportunity to build our workforce development initiatives with a \$150,000 grant over three years for operating support.

In addition to Alex—Katherine, Alfred, Cassandra, Christopher, Hector, Laurie, Roberto, Christopher, and Lamia all assisted the GRID IE construction crew both on the roof installing solar panels and down on the ground working on the conduit and wiring. A true team effort all around.

During the course of the day, the **U.S. Bank** volunteers helped install a 3.15kW system for the Gomez family. Solar power helps families live more affordably in their homes and contributes to their long-term financial security. Over the lifetime of the system, the Gomez household will save over \$16,000 in energy costs. The family is excited to join the renewable energy movement and better the planet while reducing their energy bill. Their system has the environmental impact of removing 50 tons of carbon from the air—the equivalent of planting 1,174 trees!

GOMEZ FAMILY PROJECT IMPACT NUMBERS

\$16,000

Lifetime energy savings

50

Tons greenhouse gas emissions prevented

10

Cars taken off the road

1,174

Trees planted

Rey Marz Receives Solar in Eastside Neighborhood Through TCC Riverside Funding and Installed by Bank of America Volunteers



Rey Marz with Bank of America volunteers in front of his home, and brand new solar system



Bank of America volunteers installing solar in the Eastside neighborhood of Riverside, CA

Bank of America and GRID IE collaborated in this successful team-building sponsored volunteer workday in Riverside. Through this corporate partner opportunity, which funded support for GRID IE's work, Bank of America volunteers experienced hands-on service by installing solar panels for a homeowner that will benefit most from savings in their energy bills.

"My next-door neighbor Jorge got his solar with GRID IE just last week," shared an excited Rey Marz, who received solar and a new roof through the City of Riverside's Eastside Climate Collaborative, a partnership funded by the California Strategic Growth Council Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program, which provides a 410kW-DC solar installation grant for up to 100 income-qualified single-family homes within the TCC Riverside project area.

Rey, an actor and substitute teacher, has lived in his Eastside home since 2011. *"My neighbors and I are very welcoming and friendly. We always look out for each other,"* expressed Rey, who was filled with joy as his curious neighbor and friend, Sam, stopped by to learn more about GRID IE's no-cost solar program for his own home.

While Rey's neighbors were easy to make friends with, adapting to the Inland Empire's sunny weather took some adjusting: *"We always welcome the rain, but it only comes for about a day at a time. It can get very hot here, so drinking water is essential. I stay cool with my fan, AC, iced water, and by wearing lighter clothes—it's something you have to get used to."* Prior to living in Eastside, Rey and his family settled in Moreno Valley, where his dad retired after serving at March Air Reserve Base. Similarly to Eastside, Moreno Valley gets just as hot, said Rey.

On the day of his installation, Rey laid out a wonderful spread of snacks and refreshments to thank the crew, which included Bank of America volunteers participating in a Corporate Sponsored Workday.

During the refreshments break, GRID IE Board member Alex Saucedo and GRID IE Executive Director Jaime Alonso spoke with the volunteers to thank them for their hard work and provide them with in-depth information on how this project, and the many others like it through the Inland Empire, impact our local communities.

Later, in his backyard, beside a blooming bougainvillea,

Rey shared his hopeful outlook on the benefits that solar will bring to his life, including **“a lowered electric bill and the feeling of contributing to the community. I’m always cognizant about running my AC, but now I feel like I’m uplifting my neighborhood and the electrical grid by generating solar power.”**

Earlier in the year, Rey discovered GRID IE’s program in a booklet from his city, which featured summer events and resources. **“Lots of people probably feel suspicious about free solar panels, but I did my research. I looked at GRID IE’s website, spoke with my neighbor Jorge, and inquired with one of GRID IE’s Outreach Coordinators at their Riverside office.”** To anyone curious whether they qualify for GRID IE’s no-cost solar, Rey said, **“Go for it! You can’t go wrong—GRID IE is such a great organization that’s doing good for the community.”**

In addition to contributing to his community, receiving solar sparked a new vision and goal for Rey. **“When**

I saw my home being upgraded, I felt so inspired to continue. I knew it was going to be hard work.” After getting a new, solar-ready roof through GRID IE’s program, Rey was determined to repaint his home and made plans to explore community programs that offer drought-resistant plants for his yard.

“I’ve learned how much of an impact I make and how to be more efficient with my energy consumption. I’m astonished by how much I’ve cut back—which is reflected in my bill!” Shares Rey, who enjoyed learning more about his energy bill through the help of his Outreach Coordinator at GRID IE, Erica Lomeli. **“It’s been easy—if the lights are on in a room that you’re not in, turn them off. It can also be challenging, but making small adjustments makes it easier. You’ll see the numbers drop,”** said Rey, who sees his home’s energy efficiency similar to a game.

At the end of the installation, Rey described himself as grateful, excited, and optimistic. **“It’s such a wonderful**

Bank of America volunteers installing solar panels on the roof of Rey’s home



GRID IE Board Member, Alex Saucedo addresses the Bank of America volunteers

feeling to share this news with my family,” shared Rey, who also recorded a video of the day for his mom. After the installation, Rey posted on Facebook to express gratitude and update his online community. **“GRID IE’s mission and optimism is such a good step in the right direction. Thank you, Erica, Danny [Solar Installation Supervisor at GRID IE], Bank of America volunteers, and everyone at GRID Alternatives!”**

MARZ FAMILY PROJECT IMPACT NUMBERS

\$10,800

Lifetime energy savings

56

Tons greenhouse gas emissions prevented

11

Cars taken off the road

1,313

Trees planted

Wells Fargo Volunteers Install Solar for Two Inland Empire Families



Tom Farrar, homeowner, with Alejandra Guillen-Garcia, Senior Outreach Coordinator

During the week before Thanksgiving 2023, **Wells Fargo** and GRID IE collaborated in two successful Team-Building Sponsored Volunteer Workdays in the Inland Empire—with an installation at the Farrar family home in Ontario, and a second at the Nguyen family home in Moreno Valley.

Through this corporate partner opportunity, which funded support for GRID IE’s work, volunteers from Wells Fargo experienced hands-on service by installing solar for families that will benefit the most from savings in their energy bills.

In Ontario, the **Wells Fargo** volunteer team of Chantal C., Jasper S., Tony B., Anthony C., Mark K., Ronald T., and Robert T. installed 3.9kW of clean power production. That’s equivalent to the elimination of 52 tons of greenhouse gases, and a projected lifetime savings of \$10,485 for the Farrar family!

In Moreno Valley, the **Wells Fargo** volunteer team of Ana P., Lucy C., Hector H., Tali K., Roberto R., and Jeannine A. installed 5.4kW of clean power production. That’s equivalent to the elimination of 96 tons of greenhouse gases, and a projected lifetime savings of \$18,880 for the Nguyen family!

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of GRID IE and **Wells Fargo** volunteers, two more households in Inland Empire communities are enjoying the environmental and financial benefits of solar.

Great grandfather, recent retiree, and bonsai-enthusiast Tom Farrar was on hand to witness the installation at his home in Ontario.



Wells Fargo volunteers installing solar on the Farrar home in Ontario, California





Thankful for all the hard work of the volunteers—he had this to say:

“It’s a great community. It can get hot in the summertime, so it’s really cool that I’m getting solar because my electric bill has been nuts. Now that my wife and I are living on social security, we’re learning that there are more resource programs available than we thought!”

Wells Fargo volunteers installing solar on the **Nguyen** home in Moreno Valley, California



Wells Fargo volunteers installing solar on the **Nguyen** home in Moreno Valley, California

FARRAR & NGUYEN FAMILY PROJECTS
IMPACT NUMBERS

\$29,300

Lifetime energy savings

148

Tons greenhouse gas emissions prevented

28

Cars taken off the road

3,445

Trees planted

We asked him what made GRID’s solar program stand out from other options?

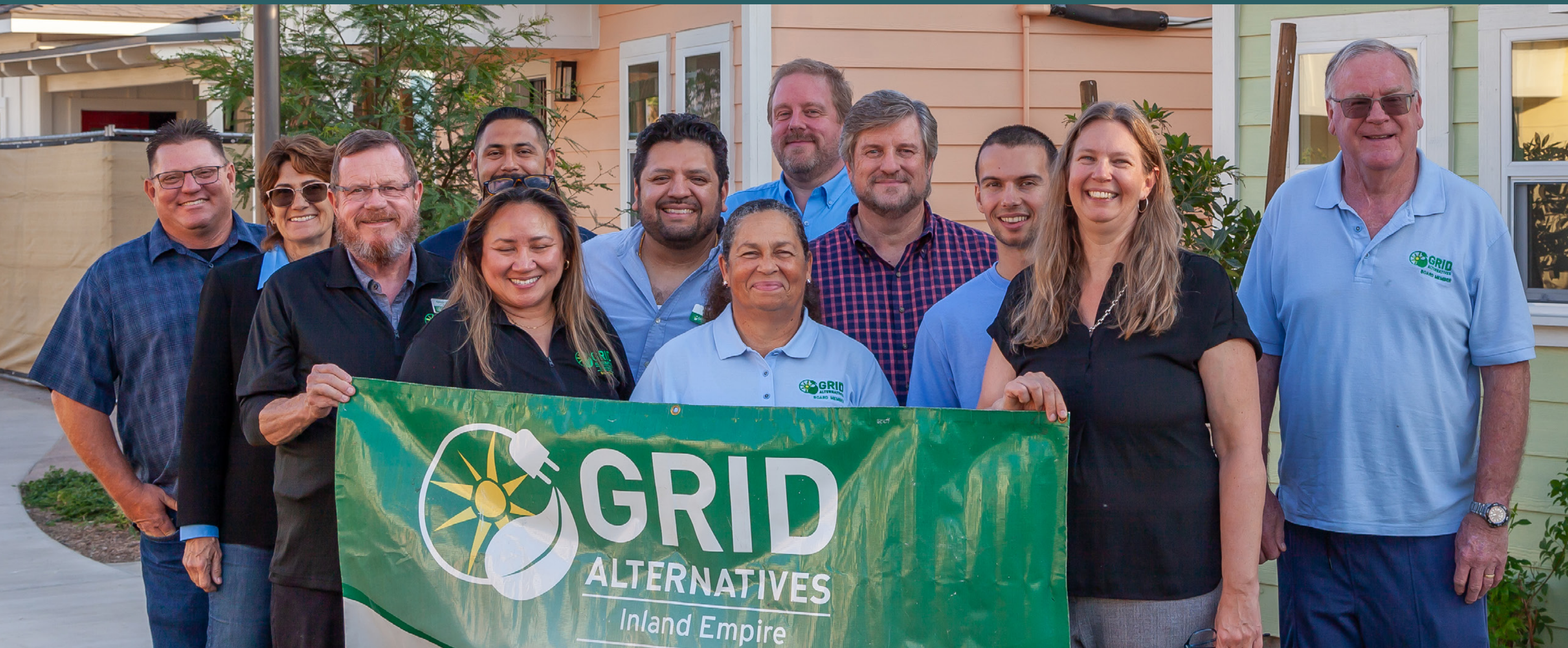
“It’s free! I also like the way that GRID cares about the community and environment.”

We followed up by asking, ‘What would you say to anyone considering GRID’s program?’

“Give it a try! See if you qualify. I have no hesitation—I definitely recommend GRID!”

Tom thanked his Outreach Coordinator at GRID IE, Alejandra, for guiding him through his solar process. On the day of his installation, he described himself as **“gratified, happy, and relaxed.”**

GRID IE thanks the **Wells Fargo** team for creating a positive impact in the communities we serve. We look forward to more installs in the future!



GRID Alternatives Inland Empire visits Mulberry Village. From left to right: **Dan Glasow**, Construction Director, **Lisa Castilone**, Director of Tribal Programs, **George Puddephatt**, Board President, **Alex Saucedo**, Board Member, **Kari H'Orvath**, Board Member, **Jaime Alonso**, Executive Director, **Michelle Pierce** Board Secretary, **Richard Lintin**, Marketing & Communication Director, **David Hahn**, Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity, Riverside, **Walker Woodard**, Development Manager, **Erica Mackie**, CEO & Founder GRID Alternatives, **Blaine Boyer**, Board Treasurer



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