

20 YEARS OF IMPACT



2024 Impact Report: Inland Empire Expanded Edition



20 YEARS OF IMPACT

In 2004, we launched GRID Alternatives with a bold vision: to bring renewable energy technologies to communities historically excluded from innovation.

GRID Alternatives Inland Empire (GRID IE) was founded in April 2011 to bring clean, renewable energy and job training to underserved communities in Riverside, San Bernardino, and Inyo counties.

In the early days, GRID was fueled by volunteer crews, completing one installation at a time, while always prioritizing people-first solutions to expand clean energy access for all.

Now, as we celebrate 20 years of creating Good Energy, we reflect on how far we've come. From our community-driven beginnings to the impact we've made, this milestone serves as a reminder that meaningful, lasting change doesn't happen in isolation—it truly takes a village. Together, we've transformed an idea into a movement that continues to drive equity, sustainability, and opportunity, helping to ensure that the benefits of clean energy reach everyone.

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.

NATIONAL IMPACT



\$750 M

Lifetime Savings



4.4 M

Tons CO2 Reduction



99 MW

Solar Installed



33,000

Households Served

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ON THE FRONT COVER:

Main image:

Aerial view of the ribbon-cutting and the solar array on the roof of the Chemehuevi gym (full story on page 32)

Across the middle from left to right:

GRID IE Solar Installation Supervisor *Javier Prats* and student *Hector* from Aroyo Valley High School CORE Academy, installing solar on the Garcia family home in Ontario, CA

GRID IE Solar Installation Supervisor *Daniel Montero* installing batteries at the Auclair Family home on Torres Martinez Tribal Reservation (Full story on page 28)

GRID IE Construction Intern *Mark Stricklen* at TCC Riverside installation (Full story on page 38)

IBT 200 student *Joaly Morfin* working on the electrical box for the final TCC Ontario installation (full story on page 42)



Letters from Our Leaders

As Tim and I reflect on the past 20 years, we can't help but think about the people who helped us get here. People took our vision seriously: we came into this believing there is a world where clean energy is accessible for everyone. People helped us weave together a determined organization. People have made this vision a reality for so many homes and communities across the globe. GRID Alternatives (GRID) has and will continue to be **People First**.

Each year, we've grown quicker, faster, and smarter. We've built stronger relationships and we've given more people opportunities. But when we look back at GRID's legacy, we want the stories to speak for themselves. We want the communities to tell you in their own words about choice and empowerment. Yes, we are a renewable energy nonprofit. But we are on a mission to do it **differently**. When we say people power, we mean it. More voices, more jobs, more options. GRID has heard this call when it comes to energy options and we are proud of each household and community that has chosen to walk this road of transformation with us. But there is more to do.

We realize there is a long road ahead and we cannot do this without your support - we are entering 2025 with renewed energy and together, we will offer light **no matter the challenge**. We are thankful you are here with us in partnership.



In Sunshine and Solidarity,

Erica Mackie *Tim Sears*
Co-Founder, Co-CEO, Co-Founder, Co-CEO,
GRID Alternatives GRID Alternatives



With purpose and gratitude,
Vikita Poindexter
Board President,
GRID Alternatives Inland Empire

As President of the Board for GRID Alternatives Inland Empire, I am honored to celebrate the meaningful progress we've made together in 2024. This year, we deepened our commitment to equity-driven climate action—bringing clean, renewable energy solutions to front line communities and creating real pathways to green careers for individuals too often left out of the conversation.

Whether through our partnerships with Tribal nations, our reintegration programs for justice-impacted individuals, or our hands-on job training opportunities, every step forward has been rooted in the belief that environmental justice and economic opportunity must go hand in hand.

I continue to be inspired by the dedication of our team, the vision of our leadership, the strength of our community, and the support of partners who believe in our mission. Together, we're not only responding to the climate crisis—we're transforming lives and reshaping what's possible for the Inland Empire and beyond.

Thank you for walking with us on this journey.

LETTER FROM GRID IE'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I reflect on 2024, I am filled with pride and gratitude for what we accomplished together at GRID Alternatives Inland Empire. This year reaffirmed a powerful truth: when communities, partners and dedicated individuals come together, we can drive transformational change that lasts for generations.

Together in 2024, we installed systems that will save families millions of dollars, prevent thousands of tons of greenhouse gas emissions, and provide lasting environmental and financial benefits. Just as importantly, we strengthened trust in communities that have historically been left behind, proving once again that equity must be at the center of the clean energy transition.

In partnership with Tribal Nations, we celebrated milestones that go far beyond clean energy installations. In 2024, Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians and the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe not only expanded their solar and storage capacity, but also secured critical funding to plan and develop future solar and energy storage systems. These forward-looking projects are designed to strengthen community resilience, ensuring that critical community facilities remain powered during outages and that Tribal communities are better prepared for climate and grid-related disruptions. More than just kilowatts, these efforts represent sovereignty, self-determination, and a healthier future for Tribal communities.

Our workforce training programs also grew in both impact and reach. Through IBT 200, Solar Futures, and reentry-focused training, participants dedicated thousands of hours to building skills that open doors to high-quality careers in the solar industry. We are especially proud of the graduates who overcame significant barriers, proving that opportunity and determination can transform lives.

This year also highlighted the strength of our partnerships with local businesses and organizations. Volunteers from Bank of America, Edison International, and Pacific Premier Bank rolled up their sleeves alongside our construction crews to install solar for families across the Inland Empire. These team-building days demonstrated the power of corporate responsibility and showed families that their community truly stands with them.



At the heart of all these efforts are the people we serve: homeowners like Anna in San Bernardino, Joshua in Moreno Valley, and the Hanan family in Riverside, who each opened their doors to GRID IE. Their stories remind us why we do this work: to lower energy bills, create healthier environments, and build pathways to opportunity.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to expanding our work in the Inland Empire and Inyo County, deepening our partnerships with Tribal Nations, and ensuring that workforce development and equity remain at the core of everything we do.

Thank you to our staff, volunteers, partners, and funders who make this work possible. Together, we are not only building a clean energy future, we are building a more just and resilient Inland Empire.

With gratitude,
Jaime Alonso
Jaime Alonso
Executive Director
GRID Alternatives Inland Empire

OUR TOP
SUPPORTERS IN 2024

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
 - Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
 - Bishop Paiute Tribe
 - Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians
 - Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation
 - 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
 - FHL Bank of San Francisco
 - Stater Bros. Charities
 - Kaiser Permanente
 - The JPB Foundation
 - James Irvine Foundation
 - Rose Foundation
 - Golden State Environmental Justice Alliance
 - Honda U.S.A. Foundation

GRID IE
BOARD MEMBERS



Vikita Poindexter, Board President, 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.



Kari H’Orvath, Board Secretary 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.



Tracy Woodburn, Board Treasurer 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.



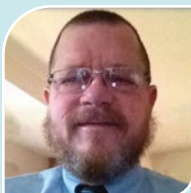
Katy Gray, Board Member since October 2024

Katy Gray is a Wealth Management Banker at U.S. Bank, serving the financial needs of people in Corona, Eastvale, and the surrounding Inland Empire. She has 19 years of experience in the financial industry. Katy holds a B.A. in English from the University of Irvine, and is FINRA and NMLS licensed.



Christian Inzunza, Board Member since October 2024

Christian Inzunza is Director of Development & Permitting at Dynamic Energy, he leads community solar projects from early development to construction. A native of Indio, CA, he is dedicated to expanding solar access in the Coachella Valley and Inland Empire through GRID Alternatives.



George E. Puddephatt, Board President, September 2018 to September 2024



Michelle Pierce, Board Secretary, September 2018 to September 2024



Blaine Boyer, Board Treasurer, September 2018 to September 2024



Alexander Saucedo, Board Member, January 2019 to January 2025



The Inland Empire (IE) spans more than 37,540 square miles, covering Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, as well as Inyo County to the north. While much of the population is concentrated in the southwest of San Bernardino County and the western portion of Riverside County, the region as a whole is vast, diverse, and rapidly growing. Known as a major hub for shipping, logistics, and manufacturing in California, the IE plays a vital role in powering the state's economy. At the same time, it faces significant challenges, including some of the highest poverty and unemployment rates in California and consistently poor air quality that impacts the health of its residents.

GRID Alternatives Inland Empire partners directly with these communities to provide people-first clean energy solutions. Through programs that deliver no-cost solar installations for income-qualified households and workforce development

opportunities that open doors into the solar industry, GRID IE works to ensure the benefits of clean energy are shared equitably. The organization also collaborates with local Tribal Nations, providing renewable energy technologies that strengthen community resilience and build pathways to energy sovereignty.

Since opening its doors in April 2011, GRID Alternatives Inland Empire has been dedicated to transforming lives and communities. The organization has helped underserved families reduce household energy costs, trained hundreds of individuals seeking hands-on experience to launch careers in the growing solar industry, and delivered measurable environmental benefits by reducing greenhouse gas emissions across the region. In doing so, GRID IE continues to raise awareness about environmental justice while advancing a vision where clean energy is accessible to all.

2024

\$3.6 million

In community member savings

183

Single-family homes served

2

Multifamily & commercial projects

15

Tribal projects

288

Workforce program participants

33 million

Lifetime kWh production

15,919

Tons of greenhouse gas emissions prevented

370,305

Equivalent number of trees planted

3,047

Equivalent number of cars taken off the road

SINCE 2011

\$89.9 million

In community member savings

2,678

Single-family homes served

26

Multifamily & commercial projects

407

Tribal projects

4,876

Workforce program participants

523 million

Lifetime kWh production

260,143

Tons of greenhouse gas emissions prevented

6.1 million

Equivalent number of trees planted

49,788

Equivalent number of cars taken off the road



Story Map

This map highlights the reach of GRID Alternatives Inland Empire's impact over the past year, stretching from Los Angeles County to the Arizona border. Each pin represents a community where our projects, partnerships, and events have taken root. From homeowner solar installations in Chino, Ontario, Moreno Valley, San Bernardino, and Riverside, to transformative projects with our tribal partners at the Torres Martinez and Chemehuevi Reservations.

The map also marks major gatherings where we shared knowledge and celebrated milestones, including the Bank of America Neighborhood Builder award ceremony at the Culver Center of the Arts in Riverside, the American Planning Association conference at the Riverside Convention Center, and workforce development training at the IEHP Foundation in Rancho Cucamonga.

Together, these markers show not just points on a map, but the growing network of people and places moving the Inland Region toward a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient future.



Workforce Projects



IBT 200

SOLAR INSTALLATION BASICS TRAINING



Empowering Futures Through Solar and Skills: The Impact of IBT 200

2024 marked a defining year for GRID Alternatives Inland Empire (GRID IE) as we expanded our flagship workforce development program, IBT 200 (Installation Basics Training), from one to two cohorts.

Building on the powerful lessons learned from our historic first cohort in fall

2023, this expansion reflects our deep commitment to building a more inclusive and skilled clean energy workforce.

IBT 200 is more than a training course, it's a launchpad for individuals pursuing meaningful careers in solar installation and related trades. Over 200 hours, trainees gain hands-on experience

in rooftop solar installation, safety procedures, soft skills, and technical know-how, all critical for succeeding in a rapidly growing green economy. But the real power of IBT 200 lies in the lives it transforms.

Following the inaugural cohort in 2023, our Workforce Team engaged in a thoughtful learning process. We listened to our trainees, reflected on their experiences, and adapted our program for 2024 based on their feedback.

Perhaps most importantly, we deepened our cultural competency, ensuring that each trainee felt seen, supported, and safe. The first cohort reminded us that technical training is only part of the equation. Healing, confidence-building, and community are just as essential.

As we reflect on 2024, we celebrate not just the growth of IBT 200, but the people behind it, the trainees who dared to change their lives, and the GRID IE staff who walked beside them. Together, we are powering possibility, one rooftop, and one career, at a time.

As we looked back on our inaugural IBT 200 cohort, three trainees, Jeffery, Marco, and Rio, sat down with our team to reflect on their experiences. Their stories offer a powerful window into the impact of the program, the relationships they built, and the personal growth they experienced along the way. Their voices continue to guide how we grow IBT 200 and support future cohorts.

Jeffrey



Jeffrey discovered our IBT 200 program through a friend at the Inland Empire Center for Employment Opportunities, or CEO, which offers employment assistance for justice-impacted people. ***"Myself being justice impacted, I gained interest in IBT 200 because it would provide solar training. When IBT 200 opened up, I let CEO know, and they helped me apply for an interview. I'm in the process of changing, and if I hadn't gotten into IBT 200, I wouldn't have been surprised. When I did, I knew this is what I needed to be doing, this is what I want out of life."*** Having pursued another trade skill in the past, solar is the first trade skill that Jeffrey plans on making a career out of.

Jeffrey's advice, If you're curious about joining GRID IE's IBT 200 program ***"Be serious about it. GRID IE's team is here to train you well and get you employed. Solar is a good field to get into, but if your main focus is the pay, that's the wrong attitude. You're going to be out in the sun, think about if that's something you can see yourself doing. Over 30 interviewed for my class of 6, so getting a spot is a big deal. If you're interested in solar and don't know how to get into it, this is it."*** Ultimately, Jeffrey suggests taking full advantage of the help out there for anyone seeking change.

Jeffrey has enjoyed taking charge of his life. ***"Seeing the progress on the changes I've made, the positive changes happening. I'm at peace with myself,"*** shared Jeffrey.

Naturally, learning new skills comes with its challenges, and Jeffrey did not hesitate to express his fear about whether or not he could be successful in a field he had no prior knowledge of. ***"I had to overcome my self-doubt and negativity that was trying to pull me back,"*** shared Jeffrey, who had difficulty mastering how to wire junction boxes and bend conduit. ***"It's nerve-racking, but it gets easier once you're out in the field and see that your work on a client's house is done right,"*** said Jeffrey. After more practice with our Construction Team on the roof, wiring junction boxes, and bending conduit quickly became Jeffrey's favorite tasks by the end of the program.

"Seeing the progress on the changes I've made, the positive changes happening. I'm at peace with myself"

Aside from hard skills, Jeffrey also strengthened his soft skills through workshops with our Workforce Team: ***"Writing a resume was something I always hated doing, and now I have much less anxiety because I had help creating it, it's a beautiful resume now."*** In addition to resume writing, Jeffrey feels more confident pitching himself to potential employers and

knowing ***"how to research and plan for interviews, a skill that's also needed for solar installations."***

Thinking back to graduation day, Jeffrey described himself as ***"confident and capable about my skills"***. After reflecting on the challenges faced during the five weeks of IBT 200, he confidently stated: ***"I'm ready to get out there and start working, without any hesitation about how to install a solar system."***



Marco

Marco is a GRID IE volunteer since 2017. After 36 hours of dedicated field work alongside our Construction Team, Marco decided it was time to further himself for an exciting, new job path. ***"I'm in a position where I have my own place and a good job at a grocery store,"*** expressed Marco, who felt ready to take on his first trade skill through GRID IE's IBT 200 program.

During the program, Marco loved the early starts and ***"waking up at 6 am to see the sunrise and clouds,"*** something his closing shifts at the grocery store rarely allowed in his schedule. While early mornings were easy for Marco, IBT 200 also came with its challenges.

During week one of the program, Marco quickly identified a potential challenge for himself: ***"I'm a little afraid of heights, so being the first one to put up the ladder to access the roof seems very intimidating."*** Similarly to his peers, Marco experienced doubt about his abilities. Nevertheless, he put his IBT 200 skills to work in the field, and by the end of week five, Marco had successfully mounted the ladder for his crew multiple times. ***"Knowing that it was set up and secure gave me more confidence on the roof. I'm still a little nervous up there, but I found a way to enjoy it by focusing on the job, safety, and being able to see the world from a different perspective,"*** said Marco.

Among the topics that GRID IE's Workforce Team focused their workshops on, memorization was one of them: ***"It's common for different crews to have different names for the parts we use during the installation, so class exercises like matching parts to numbers really helped,"*** shared Marco, who worked on multiple builds where this skill came in handy with GRID IE's Construction Team.

For Marco, who simultaneously attended IBT 200 while working part-time at his local grocery store, ***"The program was exhausting but great, I am ready for what's next. GRID's taught me everything I need to know and offers continued support to get further into the industry after graduation."*** Feeling accomplished, relaxed, and ready to take anything on, Marco is prepared to see where his new experience takes him in the industry.

Currently Marco is back at GRID IE as a Construction SolarCorps fellow, again working with our team in the community installing solar systems.

"The program was exhausting but great. I am ready for what's next."

Like each of our IBT 200 graduates, Rio's story has its own beginning: ***"I participated in GRID IE's free Virtual IBT 200 training, or VIBT 200, where I got my completion certificate."*** Rio met Sandra and Paola, members of our IE Workforce Team, during a CEO orientation that promoted IBT 200.

Before pursuing solar, Rio explored a plethora of trade skills, including fixing soldiers' headstones, irrigation, concrete work, and building houses. ***"My dad is a carpenter and licensed contractor, so I grew up around the construction field."*** As IBT 200 resumed, Rio realized that many of his previous skills from other trades could be applied to solar installation.

After being trained in multiple trade skills, Rio said: ***"If you're serious about having a new career in solar, IBT 200 is a great opportunity that lifts you off the ground. The opportunities are beyond what can be explained in 1-2 sentences: the hard skills and soft skills, including***

learning how to get out of your shell in an industry that requires teamwork and communication. Now that I'm a graduate I can confidently say that the program takes dedication." While Rio recommends IBT 200 for anyone entering the solar industry, he stresses the importance of taking it seriously so as not to take the opportunity away from somebody else who wants it.

For Rio, the pressure was on to grasp an imperative skill that employers look for in solar installers: ***"IBT 200 was the first time I used a pipe bender. It's been my most difficult and frustrating part of installations,"*** admitted Rio, thinking back to week one. ***"Locking in the math for angles and the pitch of the roof was been intimidating and we were timed on it for the final exam,"*** shared Rio, who recalled feeling both excited and nervous about week five, which also included a solar showcase for students to display their skills to potential employers.

"Time has helped me settle the doubts I

had about myself. I no longer get ahead of myself and get the measurements wrong, I stay at the same speed as everyone else in the crew." Not only did this benefit the team, but it allowed Rio to ***"observe others and develop better techniques, rather than doing something only one way."***

Teamwork quickly became a growing soft skill that Rio honed in on: ***"Labs for communication skills were great, especially learning how to get everyone's input and ideas, and using them towards one goal,"*** shared Rio, who specifically enjoyed an exercise that tasked teams with building the strongest noodle-marshmallow structures.

Similarly to his fellow graduates, Rio expressed himself as ***"Focused, determined, accomplished."*** On graduation day. Having overcome many challenges in a short span of time, Rio felt ***"a weight lifted off my shoulders. I am happy and proud of myself."***

Rio



2024 IBT 200 COHORTS SHOWCASES & GRADUATIONS



After acing their mock roof installation, family members and friends arrived for the main event of the day, the graduation ceremony. With bouquets, gift baskets, and smiles, the guests heard speeches from the Workforce Team as they recounted the hard work and growth of the cohorts, including special recognition to the first woman in IBT 200.

As the cheers and applause settled, the presentation of certificates

On July 2nd, 2024, GRID IE was proud to present the graduates of the first IBT 200 Cohort of 2024: **Elijah Clark, William Bolczak, Alejandro Morales, Juan Ibanez Sanchez, Michael Tran, Eduardo Gomez, Guillermo Ramos, and Peter Estrada.**

And, on September 10th, 2024, GRID IE was proud to present the graduates of the second IBT 200 Cohort of 2024: **Angel Moses Ochoa, Daveion Purtue, Tyreck Jones, Jesus Cruz, Gregory Babineaux Jr., Angel Daniel Rodriguez, and Jialy Morfin.**

The graduates had all 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.



To demonstrate their readiness for rewarding and demanding careers in the solar industry, solar showcases took place for students to display their skills to potential employers. Without guidance from the Workforce Team who trained them, the trainees worked together to install a solar systems on the CTTC's mock roof.

began. In heartwarming ceremonies, graduates were surrounded by family and friends as they captured the momentous occasion.

Congratulations to our graduates, we are so proud! Thank you to all who attended the showcases and graduations, your support drives GRID IE and our IBT 200 graduates towards success.



Since the launch of GRID IE's Clean Tech Training Center (CTTC) in 2022, our Workforce Team has redefined how the Inland Empire is included in a growing, clean energy economy that benefits all.

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

IBT 200's curriculum is created based on the NABCEP PV Installer Specialist Job Task Analysis, an established and recognized certification organization in the renewable energy industry. Upon completion of the program, graduates are given a stipend that can be used to support further career development, such as NABCEP certifications.

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 value to career seekers in our community and provide an opportunity to learn, grow, and build confidence in pursuing careers in the solar industry.

When GRID started over 20 years ago, you may know that we focused on installing solar panels for families in need at no cost,



utilizing tools borrowed from a tool-lending library and a team of community volunteers.

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

Because of that need and the industry's response, GRID has grown its Workforce Programs over the past 10+ years.

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 the five weeks of IBT 200, 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 ensure these eight remarkable individuals successfully completed training and graduation.

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 does this because we believe in connecting good people in our communities to good career opportunities in an ever-growing industry and to fill the entry-level training gaps in our local clean energy economy.

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



We would also like to thank our supporters who provided critical funding to build the CTTC, increase staff capacity, and support the expenses required to run these IBT 200 cohorts.

U.S. Bank, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Edison International, Kaiser Permanente, Citizens Business Bank, Pacific Premier Bank, Honda USA Foundation, and The James Irvine Foundation.



SOLAR FUTURES

John W. North High School Students Participating in GRID IE's Solar Futures Program are Inspired to Compete in the 2024 California Envirothon



GRID Alternatives Inland Empire's (GRID IE) Solar Futures program provides both classroom and hands-on solar education to K-14 students, focusing on high school juniors and seniors. Its goal is to provide opportunities to learn more about solar power and illuminate career pathways in the booming solar industry.

The Solar Futures program leverages GRID IE's hands-on solar installation model to educate and inspire the next generation of solar leaders. The program emphasizes supporting programming for high school students in California's Inland Empire by combining classroom-based sessions with real-world



solar installation experience with GRID IE's construction team out in the field.

Recently, 11th and 12th-grade students from John W. North High School in Riverside, CA, visited GRID IE's Clean Tech Training Center (CTTC) as part of their ongoing Solar Futures program. After training with GRID IE's Solar installation trainers, they learned how to install a solar system on the CTTC's mock roof.

The students are enthusiastic about protecting the environment and are looking for future pathways to work in the clean energy industry—11th Grade student Kate Padua stated, *"I enjoy learning all the ways the GRID IE approaches different energy goals and situations."* In addition, fellow student Zenabu Weaver commented, *"We learned about solar installations on a big scale and all the processes involved. We learned about the importance of clean energy to the growth of the Inland Empire and the different improvements needed for the power grid."*

A hands-on approach is vital to the student's success and essential to the Solar Futures program. 12th-grade student Melanie enjoyed her training at the CTTC, remarking, *"I enjoyed going*



“We learned about solar installations on a big scale and all the processes involved. We learned about the importance of clean energy to the growth of the Inland Empire and the different improvements needed for the power grid.”

to the site [CTTC] and putting solar panels on the fake roof. I learned a lot!” Fellow 12th-grader Ricardo added, “I enjoyed the hands-on work we got to do, and one thing I was excited to learn was how to cut and install wire.”

The students from John W. North are wonderful participants in our Solar Futures program and are extending their learning and experience by entering the 2024 California Envirothon event “Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future,” which aligns with the knowledge they have gained from Solar Futures. The Students met with GRID IE’s Executive Director, Jaime Alonso, for guidance and support as they plan their entry into the 2024 competition.

California Envirothon aspires to educate and instill within our youth their individual and collective responsibilities for environmental stewardship and a sense of community, comprehend the role of governance, and empower them to make wise decisions about managing and restoring natural resources into the future.

Celebrating Two+ Years of Impact: Paola’s Journey from SolarCorps Fellow to Workforce Coordinator



resources that can offer support through those challenges,” she explained.

Her role is as much about building relationships as it is about building skills. Paola often serves as a trusted mentor, guiding justice-impacted individuals through training while making sure they feel seen, valued, and supported. She takes pride in the Workforce team’s ability to create an environment where trainees are encouraged to succeed not only in the classroom and on the job site, but also in life.

One of her favorite memories at GRID IE highlights this spirit of accomplishment: the 2023 IBT 200 Solar Showcase and Graduation. For Paola, seeing five trainees successfully complete the rigorous program and celebrate their achievements alongside their families and peers was unforgettable. **“It was a successful event for our five original graduating IBT 200 trainees. I was just as excited for the two IBT 200 showcases in 2024,”** she recalled with a smile.

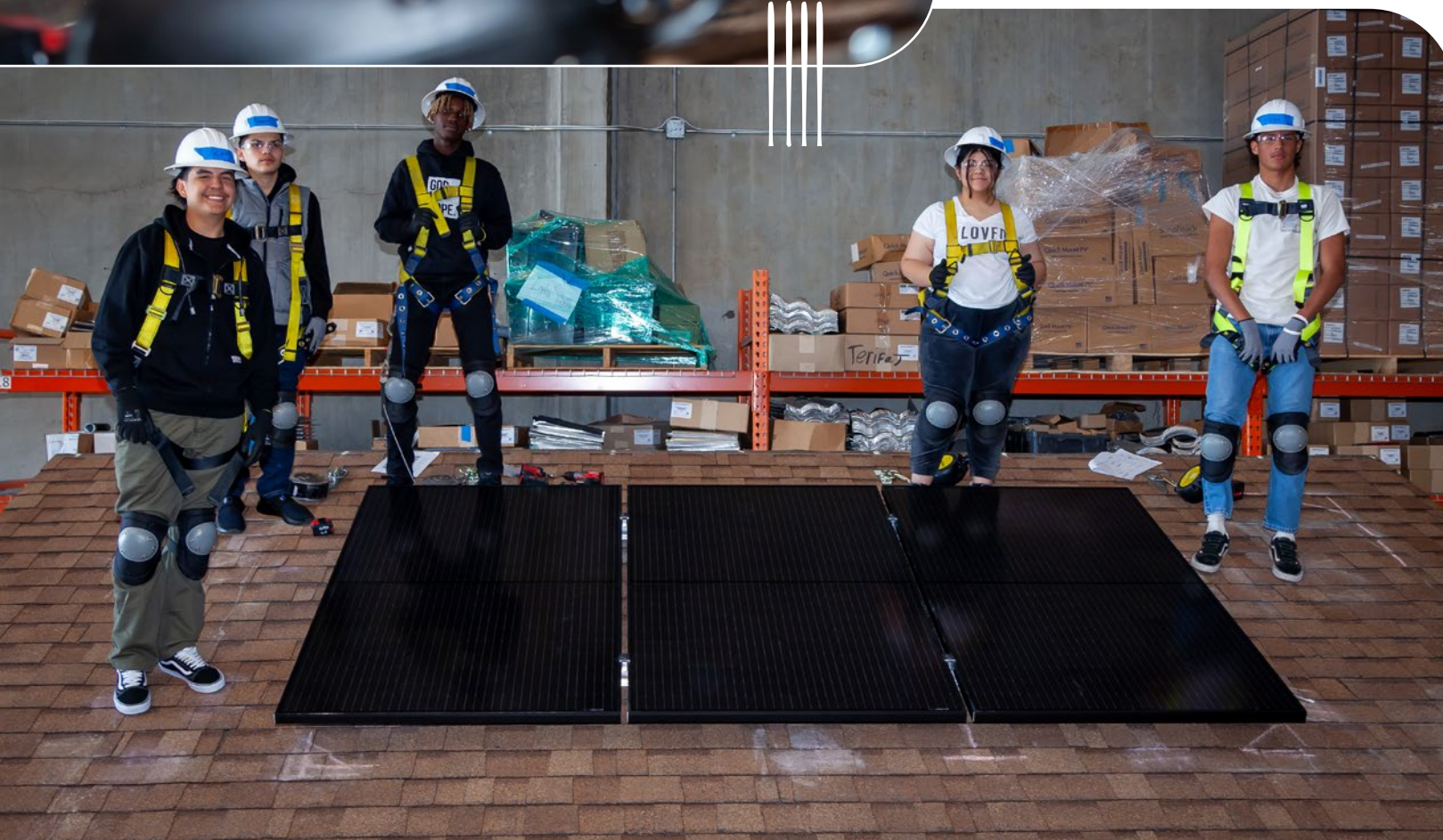
Outside of her role at GRID, Paola makes sure to recharge by spending quality time with her children. As summer unfolds, she is especially looking forward to enjoying the warm weather and heading to the beach with her kids, a reminder that balance and joy fuel her ability to give so much back to others.

During September 2024, Paola officially celebrated two years with GRID Alternatives Inland Empire, a milestone that reflects her remarkable growth and commitment to the community.

Paola’s GRID journey began in 2022 as a Workforce SolarCorps Fellow, where she quickly stood out for her ability to connect with people and her natural leadership skills. It was not long before she transitioned into a full-time Workforce Coordinator role, becoming an integral part of GRID IE’s small but mighty Workforce Development team of five.

Since joining, Paola and her team have dedicated an impressive 6,593 hours of hands-on training to the Inland Region. This work has included supporting the very first graduates of IBT 200 and mentoring Solar Futures students from Sherman Indian High School. These programs not only provide technical skills but also open doors to careers in clean energy. For Paola, the joy comes from seeing trainees gain confidence and envision new possibilities for themselves and their families.

“At GRID, I learned I have a passion for helping others,” Paola shared. “I believe my compassion and ability to communicate well with trainees helps me do my job.” That compassion is evident in how she approaches her work each day. Many of the individuals she supports are reentry trainees, facing challenges such as gaps in employment, systemic barriers, and the need for wraparound services. Rather than seeing these barriers as setbacks, Paola views them as opportunities to connect people to resources and help them navigate a path forward. **“Part of my job is connecting them to**





Tribal Projects



“These projects show what is possible when partnership, innovation, and community leadership come together,”



GRID IE Installs its First Solar + Storage on Homes in the Torres Martinez Reservation



GRID Alternatives Inland Empire (GRID IE) is proud to share a historic milestone: the completion of our first solar + storage installations. These were done in partnership with the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians. This work was made possible through the support of Enphase and funding from the Rose Foundation.

Three families, the Auclair, Becerra, and Lavergne households, are now experiencing the benefits of clean, reliable power through systems that together generate more than 24 kW-DC of solar energy. Over the lifetime of these systems, the families are projected to save more than 148,000 dollars on their energy bills. The paired battery storage provides additional savings while also strengthening resiliency, giving families peace of mind during power outages and extreme weather events.





The environmental impact is equally powerful. These three projects will prevent 389 tons of greenhouse gas emissions, which is the equivalent of taking 72 cars off the road or planting 8,874 trees. For the families and the community, these numbers represent healthier air, a stronger environment, and a future where sustainability and resilience go hand in hand.

The installations were celebrated at the home of Sheldon Auclair, where GRID IE's Director of Tribal Programs Lisa Castilone and Joseph Mirelez, Vice Chairman of the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, spoke about the importance of energy resiliency. Both highlighted how critical these



resources are for the Torres Martinez community as well as for the Coachella Valley.

"These projects show what is possible when partnership, innovation, and community leadership come together," shared Lisa Castilone. Josephy Mirelez emphasized how solar plus storage helps protect the community from power disruptions and strengthens sovereignty over their energy future.

The celebration included the GRID IE construction team, Tribal leadership, and the homeowners themselves, who expressed gratitude for the immediate relief and long-term stability the systems provide. This moment also marked the beginning of an expanded focus for GRID IE as we continue to grow our work in Eastern Riverside County and bring the benefits of clean energy and energy resilience to more tribal households.

The success of these first installations is only the beginning. With solar plus storage, GRID IE is deepening its impact and ensuring that families in our region have access not only to cost savings but also to the security of resilient, clean power for generations to come.

IMPACT



\$148,000

Lifetime Savings



389

Tons CO2 Reduction



72

Cars taken off the road



8,874

Trees planted

Chemehuevi Indian Tribe Community Gym Solar System Ribbon-Cutting

On September 28, 2024, the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe came together to celebrate a major milestone in their ongoing commitment to clean energy and resilience. The Tribe held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a GRID IE–installed solar system on the roof of their community gym. The day was filled with excitement and pride as community members, leaders, and partners gathered inside and outside the gym to mark the completion of a project that symbolizes both progress and partnership.

The new 43 kW solar system on the gym roof represents far more than panels and wiring. Over its lifetime, the system is

expected to save the facility more than \$325,000 in energy costs. It will generate 3.3 million kilowatt-hours of electricity, which is the environmental equivalent of planting over 38,000 trees or removing 550 cars from the road. The project will also prevent approximately 2,550 tons of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere, providing direct and measurable climate benefits alongside financial savings. These savings and environmental impacts highlight the importance of renewable energy in improving the long-term health and stability of both the Tribe and the broader region.

The community gym has long been one of the most important



spaces on the reservation. It serves as a hub for recreation, health programs, youth activities, and gatherings that strengthen the cultural and social fabric of the Tribe. Yet for many years, the high cost of cooling and operating the building in the summer limited how much the space could be used. In the hottest months of the year, when temperatures frequently climb above 110°F, the cost of air conditioning placed an unsustainable burden on the Tribe’s budget. Now, with the addition of the solar system, the gym can be used more frequently, more affordably, and with greater peace of mind, ensuring that this vital space truly serves the entire community year-round.

Tribal Chairman Glenn Lodge led the celebrations alongside the Tribal Council, members of the Chemehuevi Tribe, GRID IE staff, and honored guests from the Colorado River Indian Tribes.

Chairman Lodge spoke directly to the importance of building energy resilience for the Tribe. Because of the reservation’s remote location on the shores of Lake Havasu, on the California and Arizona border, residents have often endured lengthy power outages, sometimes lasting days. He emphasized that renewable energy projects like the gym installation are not only about saving money but also about protecting the Tribe’s independence, safety, and ability to thrive in the face of energy disruptions.

This ribbon-cutting was not an isolated project but rather the continuation of a much larger and long-term partnership between the Chemehuevi Tribe and GRID IE. Over the past decade, GRID IE has installed solar panels on nearly 100 homes across the reservation. These installations have directly lowered energy bills for families while helping

the Tribe achieve greater energy equity and sustainability. The Tribe also benefits from a 90 kW microgrid and carport solar system at the community center, also installed by GRID IE, which provides additional resiliency and savings. Together, these projects create a network of renewable energy resources that strengthen energy security, keep more local dollars within the community, and provide a model for how Tribes can shape their energy futures.

The celebration highlighted not only the technical aspects of the gym solar installation but also the human side of the work. GRID IE’s Executive Director Jaime Alonso and Director of Tribal Programs Lisa Castilone addressed the community and emphasized GRID’s commitment to working side by side with Tribal governments and members. Both shared that true energy resilience requires more than equipment; it

requires partnership, trust, and shared vision. This project reflects those values by addressing immediate needs for affordability and resilience while laying a foundation for future growth.

The Chemehuevi Indian Tribe has already demonstrated remarkable leadership in renewable energy. With solar installed on homes, community facilities, and through microgrid development, the Tribe is creating a model of resilience that other communities can learn from. Plans are already underway to expand energy projects even further in the coming years. These future projects will build on the success of the gym installation and ensure that the benefits of renewable energy continue to grow.


For GRID IE, partnerships like this are at the core of its mission. GRID works with Tribes across the country to design and

implement projects that match community goals, whether through cost savings, educational opportunities, or increased independence. By combining technical expertise with training and workforce development, GRID ensures that projects provide both immediate benefits and lasting impacts. For the Chemehuevi Tribe, this means not only lower costs and improved reliability but also stronger pathways to community control over energy resources.

The ribbon-cutting at the community gym represents more than the completion of a project. It is a clear demonstration of what can be achieved when community vision, Tribal leadership, and nonprofit expertise come together to create solutions that last. Congratulations to the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe for completing another significant step in building a sustainable and resilient future for generations to come.




IMPACT




\$325,000

Lifetime Savings




2,550

Tons CO2 Reduction



550

Cars taken off the road



38,230

Trees planted

34

GRID ALTERNATIVES INLAND EMPIRE 2024 IMPACT REPORT EXPANDED EDITION

GRID ALTERNATIVES INLAND EMPIRE 2024 IMPACT REPORT EXPANDED EDITION

35



Single Family Projects

In June 2020, the City of Riverside and its partners were awarded two grants totaling \$31,221,206 from the Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCC) and Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program—for the Eastside Climate Collaborative.

GRID IE is a proud partner of Eastside Climate Collaborative and will install rooftop solar panels on upto 100 homes. In addition, GRID IE will provide training and job benefits to the residents of Eastside.

The Eastside Neighborhood is one of Riverside’s oldest and largest residential neighborhoods. It has been part of the City since its founding in 1870 and is nestled in the heart of the eastern portion of the City. In the early 20th Century, many workers in Riverside’s booming citrus industry resided in



the Eastside neighborhood. Families who are descendants of these original Eastside residents still live in the Eastside today. The neighborhood remains residential, with most homes built before the 1950s.

In April 2024, Lupe Fuentes became the 21st Eastside Resident to receive solar through the City of Riverside and GRID IE partnership.

To celebrate this, and in collaboration with the Community Action Partnership of Riverside (CAP Riverside), GRID IE held a Solar Showcase during the installation. These events allow the local community, in this case, Eastside, to get to know GRID IE and its partners in person and in the safety of their own neighborhood. Community outreach activities are critical in building trust with the community, and by holding Solar Showcases at the homes of residents who are getting free, no-cost solar, and allowing friends and neighbors to interact with the homeowner and GRID IE staff and partners in a no-pressure environment. Because of this the residents of Eastside can learn

about all the benefits that living within the grant area brings them, not only free solar, but also shade trees, job training, low-water landscaping, and many other grant-funded benefits.

Karla López del Río, Executive Director of CAP Riverside, attended the event to speak to local residents, GRID, and CAP Riverside staff and, most importantly, to meet Lupe and her family. Karla’s passion is empowering working families and communities to reach their fullest potential. As a community development executive, she has a proven track record of creating complex collaborations that enhance residents’ financial wellness and quality of life.

Through the generous support of CAP Riverside, funds were available to upgrade and repair Lupe’s roof, making it suitable for solar installation and increasing the weatherization of her home.

Lupe was also generous with her time, agreeing to an interview with Jessica Sams, GRID IE’s Marketing Coordinator.

Solar Showcase in the Eastside Neighborhood of Riverside



Thank you to Lupe for allowing us to hold this important event at her home. Lupe’s home was an ideal location to show the benefits of the many programs available through the Eastside Climate Collaborative. Lupe not only has solar installed by GRID IE, but has also benefited from a new roof on her home and free shade trees in her yard.





“When I was younger, Eastside neighbors got together in the summer or after work and played games. We did a lot of walking, like crossing the train tracks to go to the Fox Theater. It was hot, but we were young and didn’t really feel the heat,”

“When I was younger, Eastside neighbors got together in the summer or after work and played games. We did a lot of walking, like crossing the train tracks to go to the Fox Theater. It was hot, but we were young and didn’t really feel the heat,” shared smiling Lupe, a lifetime resident of Eastside for 93 years.

Lupe, her pet husky, Rica, and Jessica sat down in the plant-filled backyard of her historic home where she was born and raised. She recalled life during her youth: “Everything used to be orange groves,” said Lupe, who witnessed Eastside through World War II, segregation, and redevelopment initiatives.

Bernard, her son and caretaker, joined our conversation. Over time, he observed that “hardly anyone in the neighborhood is a homeowner anymore. It’s mostly renters or family members with houses left to them by their parents or grandparents.” Echoing her son, Lupe added that “about one or two of my friends are still here. They’re in their 90s now.”

Through the Eastside Climate Collaborative,

a partnership funded by the California Strategic Growth Council Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program, Lupe and her son, Bernard, are the 21st homeowners to receive solar from GRID IE as part of the 410kW-dc solar installation grant for up to 100 low-income single-family homes within the TCC Riverside project area.

Bernard discovered GRID IE’s solar program through our local TreePeople partner, Bryan. After planting various trees in Bernard’s yard through their shade tree program, Bernard decided to do further research on GRID: “I worked in construction, so I spoke to my friends who are electricians, they said go to the solar company themselves. So, I went to the GRID IE office in Riverside,” shared Bernard. From there, he sat down with Yoselyn, GRID IE’s Outreach Manager, and “That’s what made it real, being able to sit down like we are now, and talk. I can tell that everyone here enjoys their work,” said Bernard, as he picked lemons and admired the blooming plum trees that TreePeople planted in the backyard.

“Something new I’ve learned is resources,” shared Bernard, who has beautified their backyard with fruit and shade trees thanks to organizations like TreePeople. This led him to GRID IE’s solar program. Now, Bernard has been able to extend these resources to his neighbors: “I have a few interested folks coming over to look at my GRID contract. And two houses over, my neighbor is also applying.”

As the day ended, Lupe said, “I’m happy to see GRID’s staff here

and everybody doing what they’re supposed to do. I hope this helps with our electric bill. I am the first house on my block to have solar with GRID!” For Bernard, he felt comfortable and rewarded: “I like to turn the heater on for my mom in the morning, and the AC in the evening, so that she can feel comfortable. Having solar is going to be helpful.”

IMPACT



\$17,997

Lifetime Savings



86

Tons CO2 Reduction



17

Cars taken off the road



2,007

Trees planted





TCC Ontario 78th and Final Installation and Solar Showcase

GRID IE is proud to announce the completion of the final TCC Ontario solar installation, meeting the TCC grant's total kilowatt-hour installation requirements. It is an incredible achievement for the entire GRID IE team!

The Ontario Together TCC grant is a community-driven plan and initiative to transform a 4.86-square mile downtown area through a suite of projects and plans that will reduce GHG emissions while also providing local environmental, health, and economic co-benefits.

Ten projects comprise Ontario Together and GRID IE was responsible for Rooftop Solar. The TCC grant funded two distinct

projects aimed at installing rooftop solar systems on residential properties. One focused on multifamily properties, and the other on single-family homes. These two projects will enhance local renewable energy generation and lower energy costs for residents in the project area.

Over the last five years, this critical work continued through a global pandemic and the hottest weather on record. We are so proud of everyone here at GRID, without whom none of this would have been possible. Every person in every department was integral to ensuring the completion of this project.

GRID IE held a Solar Showcase to

celebrate this event, inviting local residents, VIPs, and employees to witness the installation of this solar system, as well as to enjoy light refreshments and cake!

In attendance to celebrate with GRID IE was Nadya, representing the office of Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez. Nadya spoke to the group and presented a certificate of recognition, which Alejandra accepted on behalf of GRID IE.

Alejandra Guillen-Garcia, a GRID IE Senior Outreach Coordinator, spoke at the event, saying, *"When I started at GRID, it was around the same time that the TCC Ontario funds began. Throughout these four years, I have had the*

pleasure of assisting the Ontario community by making solar energy possible for their homes and helping them with solar installations and their re-roofing needs.

Many of the homes that applied would not have been able to move forward with solar without the TCC Ontario funds to assist by fixing their roofs.

Our efforts in the Ontario community have also spread by word of mouth and there have been instances where one family has referred three other families who then had solar installed by GRID IE."

Cindy Corrales, GRID IE's Workforce Development Director, was also in attendance at the Solar Showcase; she addressed the group, *"During the term of GRID IE's TCC Ontario Shines residential solar projects, we placed twenty positions through GRID IE's Internship program. Of those twenty internships, we hired ten Outreach Interns to help with*

marketing, pre-screens, identifying and meeting families to see if they qualified for GRID IE's solar program, four Site Visit Interns to conduct the preliminary site assessments and collect critical design data, three Photo-Voltaic Design Interns to take that data and design a solar system for permitting, and three installation interns to support the construction crew in building those very systems that previous interns before them worked on.

Immediately after completing the internship program, 55% reported landing full-time employment, and 30% reported continued education. GRID IE additionally engaged seventy-three individuals through outside funding, partnerships, and programming to assist in completing these TCC Ontario residential solar projects.



"Many of the homes that applied would not have been able to move forward with solar without the TCC Ontario funds to assist by fixing their roofs."





These individuals included eight SolarCorps Fellows, two Solar Futures high school teams from Arroyo Valley and Sherman Indian High Schools, fifteen paid construction interns, and twenty-two Installation Basics Training 200 trainees, of which eight trainees are helping to assist with the installation of this system today.

Workforce programs like these provide pivotal opportunities for folks to get meaningful employment experience in solar and clean energy through the unique lens of community and non-profit work. GRID IE will continue to wrap meaningful workforce programming like our paid Internships, Fellowships, IBT 200, Solar Futures, and others, to the many community projects we aim to complete here in our Inland Empire communities."



Victoria Pacheco, GRID IEs Community Development Officer, was integral to organizing and arranging this Solar Showcase and has been a key voice representing GRID IE in the Ontario Community stated, *"This community has proven that despite beginning Outreach efforts at the start of the pandemic, GRID IE, the City of Ontario, and residents were eager for neighborhood transformation through the Ontario Shine Program."*

The Outreach team and partnering organizations connected through any viable stream of communication and were resilient and persistent, which led to this amazing accomplishment and the completion of the TCC Ontario grant."

GRID IE will continue working with the City of Ontario to serve its residents.

While the TCC Grant is ending, many opportunities remain to continue our important work in this vibrant community.



IMPACT



\$13,981

Lifetime Savings



61

Tons CO2 Reduction



12

Cars taken off the road



1,419

Trees planted

Community Projects



GRID IE Selected as a 2024 Bank of America Neighborhood Builder

Bank of America announced that GRID Alternatives Inland Empire (GRID IE), and Neighborhood Housing Services Inland Empire (NHSIE), were been selected as its 2024 Neighborhood Builders. The bank's signature Neighborhood Builders® program continues to be one of the nation's most significant philanthropic investments into nonprofit leadership development while providing unique multiyear flexible grant funding annually to high-impact nonprofits in nearly 100 communities nationwide.

Both nonprofits are each awarded a \$200,000 grant over two years, comprehensive leadership training for each organization's executive director and an emerging leader, and access to a national network of nonprofit peers. Since the program's inception in 2004, 33 nonprofits have been



selected as Neighborhood Builders in the Inland Empire, with the bank investing more than \$6.6 million in philanthropic capital into these local nonprofits.

"Our region's nonprofits provide meaningful and lasting solutions to local challenges that advance economic mobility. Through our Neighborhood Builders program, we invest significant philanthropic capital and thought leadership resources into two high-impact local organizations annually. This year, we're excited to include GRID IE and NHSIE as Neighborhood Builders," said Bansree Parikh, president of Bank of America Inland Empire. *"Countless individuals, families, and neighborhoods have felt the profound impact these 33 local Neighborhood Builder nonprofits have had over the years."*

GRID IE will apply its Neighborhood Builders grant to expand community engagement on mitigating and adapting to climate adaptation in unincorporated areas of eastern Riverside County, invest in continuing education for green technology certification for staff, trainees, and interns, and increase the number of local residential solar system installations. Since 2011, GRID IE has installed no-cost solar panel systems on over four thousand homes across the Inland Empire, providing low-income families with savings on their electric bills and helping prevent greenhouse gas emissions.

"The flexible funds that come with being a Neighborhood Builder will help communities throughout the Inland Empire to better address climate change. GRID IE collaborates and strategizes with leaders at the intersection of housing, workforce, and transportation. This added financial resources and leadership training strengthen GRID IE's ability to develop shared priorities, deploy capital, and deepen our impact, making our communities more adapted to climate change and the direct beneficiaries of the renewable energy transition," said Jaime Alonso, Executive Director, GRID Alternatives Inland Empire.

This year's other Neighborhood Builder awardee, NHSIE, will use the Neighborhood Builders grant to help reach its goal of assisting 5,000 Inland Empire residents to achieve financial and housing stability through programs such as its Neighborhood Dreams Outreach Initiative, new community development and an outreach effort to engage local communities in San Bernardino, Perris, and Adelanto. The Neighborhood Dreams Outreach Initiative will include innovative real estate development projects, strategic education opportunities, and financial resources to meet the residents' basic needs. Over its 40 years, NHSIE has provided an estimated financial investment of over \$1 billion in home sales and down payment assistance through the service of over 10,000 residents in the Inland Empire.

"This award comes at a crucial time when many Inland Empire families struggle to find stable, affordable housing and simply need that extra support to achieve their dreams of homeownership," said Kailin Scott Peoples, CEO and Executive Director, NHSIE. *"With this grant, we'll be able to launch our Neighborhood Dreams Outreach Initiative and implement our innovative lease-to-own pilot program in San Bernardino that helps build generational wealth and stronger communities. We envision helping 5,000 residents achieve housing stability and true financial independence."*

Past Inland Empire Neighborhood Builders include Academy of Grassroots Organizations, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Desert, Boys and Girls Club of Coachella Valley, Boys and Girls Club of Greater Redlands-Riverside, CASA San Bernardino, Catholic Charities of San Bernardino & Riverside Counties, Child Development Center at Fairplex, Coachella Valley Housing Coalition, Community Health Systems, Desert AIDS Project, El Sol Neighborhood Educational Center, Fair Housing Council of Riverside County, Family Assistance Program, FIND Food Bank, Foothill Family Shelter, Galilee Center, Habitat for Humanity Riverside, Lift to Rise, Making Hope Happen Foundation, Martha's Village and Kitchen, Mary's Mercy Center, Michelle's Place, Mustard Seed Tutorial Center, Neighborhood Partnership Housing Services, Oak Grove Institute Foundation, OneFuture Coachella Valley, OPARC, Path of Life Ministries, Promise Scholars, TODEC Legal Center, and Vista Guidance Center.

The Neighborhood Builders invitation-only program is highly competitive, and honorees are selected by a committee comprised of community leaders and past awardees. Nationwide, since 2004, Bank of America has invested over \$300 million in nearly 1,800 nonprofits and helped more than 3,000 nonprofit leaders strengthen their leadership skills through the Neighborhood Builders program.



Left to right: Cathy Paredes, Bank of America Market Executive for the Inland Empire; Vikita Poindexter, GRID IE Board President; Kailin Scott-Peoples, CEO and Executive Director NHSIE; Bansree Parikh, President of Bank of America Inland Empire, and Lisa Sims, Community Relations Manager at Bank of America Inland Empire.





Hello Eastside! Celebrating Earth Day 2024



On April 18, 2024, GRID Alternatives Inland Empire invited residents of the Eastside neighborhood in Riverside to gather at the historic and beautiful Cesar E. Chavez Community Center for a special Earth Day celebration. The evening served not only as a celebration of sustainability but also as an opportunity for neighbors to connect with one another and learn about resources available to them.

The event was led by Samantha Marino, GRID IE's Senior Outreach Coordinator, who brought together GRID staff, community partners, and local families for a festive and welcoming experience. Guests enjoyed complimentary meals provided by GRID IE and prepared by Eastside favorite Deliah's, while children



were entertained at a kid-friendly activity table. In addition to the fun, the event created a relaxed and friendly space for residents to learn more about GRID IE's no-cost solar program for income-qualified households.

Our Eastside Climate Collaborative partners also joined the celebration to share their programs and services with residents. Representatives from TreePeople, Riverside Community Health Foundation (RCHF), and the City of Riverside provided valuable information on climate action, health programs, and local sustainability initiatives. Together, the partners demonstrated how collaboration strengthens opportunities for residents to save money, improve their health, and build resilience in the face of climate change.

The evening was filled with conversation,

laughter, and new connections. Many Eastside residents walked away not only with full plates and happy memories but also with knowledge of programs designed to directly support their families and community. By hosting events like this, GRID IE is building trust, creating meaningful relationships, and ensuring residents know that resources for clean energy and community well-being are within their reach.

The Eastside neighborhood is one of Riverside's oldest and largest communities, with roots dating back to the city's founding in 1870. Its history and culture are vital to Riverside's identity, and GRID IE is proud to serve

this remarkable neighborhood, which is located close to our own facility. As we continue to install no-cost solar in Eastside, we remain committed to uplifting and supporting the residents who make the community so vibrant.

The celebration concluded with photos in front of the community center's colorful mural by local artists, a fitting backdrop for an evening centered on community pride, resilience, and hope for a cleaner future. GRID IE looks forward to many more gatherings with the Eastside community as we work hand-in-hand toward a more sustainable Inland Empire.

GRID IE Executive Director Selected as an Inaugural California Climate Leaders Fellow

We are proud to share that our own Executive Director, Jaime Alonso, was selected as one of the Center for Community Investment’s (CCI) inaugural California Climate Leaders Fellows!

This prestigious fellowship brings together 13 climate resilience leaders from across California who will spend the next year strengthening their investment and leadership skills through CCI’s proven frameworks. The program is designed to equip leaders with the tools to drive systemic change, attract equitable investment, and accelerate climate solutions that prioritize the communities most affected by environmental and economic inequities.

For GRID IE, Jaime’s selection is more than an individual achievement, it represents an opportunity to elevate the voices and needs of Inland Empire communities in statewide climate conversations. Our region sits at the intersection of climate vulnerability and opportunity. Communities here face the impacts of extreme heat, poor air quality, and energy insecurity at higher rates than many other parts of the state. At the same time, the Inland Empire is rich in talent, cultural strength, and innovation that can and must shape California’s clean energy future.

Through the Fellowship, Jaime will collaborate with peers from philanthropy, government, grassroots organizations, and financial institutions. Together, they will explore strategies for aligning resources and investment pipelines to advance climate resilience in BIPOC, immigrant, and rural communities that historically have been underfunded and overlooked despite facing the most significant climate risks. This cross-sector learning and collaboration will help ensure that investment flows to the places where it is most urgently needed.

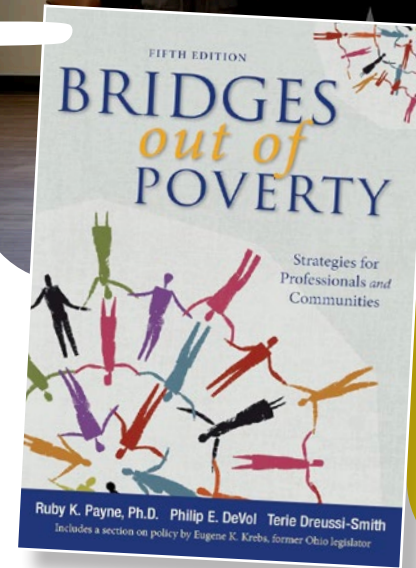


“Being part of the inaugural California Climate Leaders Fellowship is not just about leadership development, it’s about creating a pathway for the Inland Empire and other frontline communities to secure the investment they need to thrive in the face of climate change,” said Jaime Alonso.

As an organization rooted in equity and community empowerment, GRID IE understands that addressing the challenges created by climate change requires more than advocacy. It requires capital investment, bold leadership, and systemic change. This fellowship is an essential step in advancing that work.

We are honored that our leadership is helping shape the future of equitable climate resilience in California, and we look forward to sharing the insights, partnerships, and opportunities that will emerge from this journey.

Together, we can build a cleaner, more just, and resilient future for all.



Building Bridges Out of Poverty: Strengthening GRID IE’s Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity Work

As part of our essential Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity (EID) work, the GRID IE team recently participated in an intensive all-day training session, Bridges Out of Poverty, generously funded by the Parkview Legacy Foundation.

The training was held at the IEHP Foundation building in Rancho Cucamonga and facilitated by Lisa Michelle Zega, who worked in close collaboration with Damien O’Farrell and the Parkview Legacy Foundation team. Together, they have been instrumental in introducing Bridges Out of Poverty and other transformative workshops to providers across Riverside County and the surrounding region.

The Bridges Out of Poverty framework is a powerful approach designed to help participants see the world through the lens of economic class. It invites individuals and organizations to confront the realities that shape the daily lives of those experiencing poverty and to rethink how systems, institutions, and communities can better respond. For GRID IE, where our mission is not only to deliver clean energy but also to create opportunity and equity for historically underserved communities, this training aligns directly with our values and our work.

Throughout the day, our team explored a broad set of concepts and strategies. We reviewed the latest poverty research, which provided a foundation of data-driven insights into the economic and social factors that keep families from achieving

stability. We examined a theory of change that emphasizes systemic, long-term solutions over short-term fixes, which prompted participants to think about how their own work can be part of broader community transformation. We also analyzed poverty through what Bridges identifies as the “hidden rules” of class, covering aspects such as resources, family structures, and language, and discussed how these invisible but powerful dynamics often create barriers for people navigating systems that were not designed with them in mind.

The training also encouraged participants to consider institutional and community strategies for alleviating poverty. The discussion highlighted how organizations like GRID IE can work more effectively when we understand these dynamics and consciously design programs, partnerships, and outreach strategies that reduce barriers. By integrating these lessons into our work, we are better positioned to empower the communities we serve and to ensure our clean energy programs reach those who need them most.

By participating in Bridges Out of Poverty, GRID IE strengthened its commitment to tackling the systemic inequities that keep too many families and communities in cycles of hardship. The insights gained from this training will help us continue to align our solar and workforce development efforts with a broader vision of justice, resilience, and inclusion.



GRID IE & TCC Partners Share Climate Leadership at the APA Annual Conference

GRID Alternatives Inland Empire (GRID IE) was honored to lead an education panel at the American Planning Association (APA) California Annual Conference, held at the Riverside Convention Center on October 1, 2024.

The session, “Lessons Learned Across Three Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Grants in the Inland Empire,” brought the region’s climate leadership and innovation to a statewide stage where planners, policymakers, and community advocates gathered to exchange ideas.

Executive Director Jaime Alonso served as moderator, guiding a lively and thoughtful conversation with GRID IE’s closest partners in this work. The panel featured Jessica Ison, Resilient Community Associate Planner with the California Strategic Growth Council; Kimberly Ruddins, Sustainability Manager for the City of Ontario; Celina Jimenez, Director of Economic Development for the City of Coachella; and Stephanie Adams, Deputy Director of Housing and Workforce Solutions for Riverside County. Each panelist brought a unique perspective shaped by their role in advancing different aspects of TCC

implementation, from local government leadership to workforce development and economic opportunity.

Together, the group painted a vivid picture of what it takes to bring ambitious climate investments to life in the Inland Empire. They reflected on completed, in-progress, and upcoming projects that are reshaping neighborhoods, highlighting successes such as cleaner energy access, sustainable housing opportunities, expanded workforce training, and more connected transit systems. At the same time, they were candid about the challenges of coordinating multi-year, multi-million-dollar grants across diverse partners and communities. The audience gained valuable insight into both the rewards and the complexities of ensuring that climate dollars truly reach the residents and neighborhoods that need them most.

For GRID IE, leading this session was about more than sharing project updates. It was an opportunity to highlight how community-based organizations like ours play a critical role in weaving together partnerships, elevating resident voices, and



ensuring equity is not just an aspiration but a guiding principle in climate investment. The Inland Empire is often seen as a region facing disproportionate impacts from pollution, economic hardship, and climate vulnerability, yet this panel demonstrated that it is also a region of resilience and innovation, where solutions are being tested and scaled for others to follow.

By presenting at APA, GRID IE and our partners placed the Inland Empire firmly on the map as a leader in equity-driven climate planning. The conference provided a platform to strengthen connections with peers across California who are grappling with similar issues, and to position our region as a model for

collaborative, community-led change. The lessons shared will ripple outward, informing how planners and policymakers across the state think about aligning climate resilience with social equity and economic development.

This was more than a panel, it was a statement that the Inland Empire has both the expertise and the vision to shape California’s climate future. GRID IE is proud to have brought our story and the voices of our partners to this statewide stage, and even prouder to continue this work on the ground, where these lessons are translated into real impact for our communities.



Corporate Volunteer Projects





Wells Fargo Volunteers Install Solar with GRID IE on Two Local Homes

On consecutive days in October 2024, Wells Fargo and GRID IE collaborated on successful Team-Building Sponsored Volunteer Workdays in the Inland Empire, with an installation at the Jones family home in San Bernardino and a second at the Marban family home in Chino.

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

In San Bernardino, the Wells Fargo volunteer team installed a 5kW solar system. This installation is projected to provide the Jones family with \$17,500 in lifetime savings on their energy bill, which will also prevent 119 tons of CO2 emissions, equivalent to taking 26 cars off the road or planting 1,800 trees!

In Chino, the Wells Fargo volunteer team installed a larger 5.4kW solar system. This installation is projected to provide the Marban family with \$22,500 in lifetime savings on their energy bill, which will also prevent 130 tons of CO2 emissions, equivalent to taking 28 cars off the road or planting 1,950 trees!

The combined impact of these two installations installed by the Wells Fargo volunteers is significant. Reducing these families' energy bills by almost \$40,000 and preventing almost 250 tons of CO2 greenhouse gas emissions, equivalent to taking 54 cars off the road or planting 3,750 trees!

GRID IE, the Jones family, and the Marban family thank Wells Fargo for its commitment to our communities and environment.

Maurice, volunteer and Customer Service Agent for Home Equity with Wells Fargo described himself as **"excited and amazed"** at his first real-life build.

Arthur, or Art, a volunteer and Mortgage Servicing Specialist Senior with Wells Fargo, shared his experience as well: **"It's a positive, engaging, and educational experience! Helping the environment with renewable energy. I'm all for that."** To anyone interested in volunteering with GRID IE, Art said, **"Go for it, it's a really great experience. Everyone is nice, and it's a worthwhile cause."**

In addition to installing solar panels, volunteers worked with GRID's Outreach department to canvass neighbors and provide information on GRID programs. They also worked on the ground to learn essential procedures, like wiring the combiner box, under the guidance of Danny M., GRID IE's Solar Installation Supervisor.

At the San Bernardino installation, the home owner Danielle Jones, and her mother, stopped by during their lunch break from work to meet the Wells Fargo volunteers and GRID staff. They were both very thankful for all the work on their home, and the care being taken of their property. The Jones family are looking forward to the benefits of solar and the reduction of their high energy bills.

Jose, a retired homeowner, Chino resident, and recipient of no-cost solar energy installed by GRID IE, sat down with Jessica, GRID IE's Marketing Coordinator, for a quick interview between his duties as a grandfather helping to take his grandchildren to school in the morning, and picking them up in the afternoon.





"It rains very little, and the summer is hot. I've been interested in solar energy since 2016 but have never liked the options," shared Jose.

After researching various solar installers, Jose discovered GRID IE through his friend Javier, who worked at GRID IE: *"In the beginning, I didn't believe the solar would be completely free, nobody gives out anything for free. If it's too good to be true, it's probably not true,"* he expressed.

Initially, Jose did not qualify for GRID IE's solar program, which follows the State of California's California Public Utilities Commission guidelines. *"I kept in touch with GRID IE until the qualifications changed,"* said Jose, whose patience was rewarded when Erica Lomelli, the Outreach Coordinator, contacted him to let him know that funding was now available, allowing his project to proceed.

"Erica always answers my calls! Thanks to her, I learned about more resources, like the City of Chino's grant for my roof. Even though we live here, those programs aren't promoted. You have to ask. Erica has been great at making this process easy," shared Jose, who was grateful for Erica's referral to a city grant that helped to repair his roof and make it solar-ready. Jose has relayed these resources to his neighbor, who is now on track for solar with GRID IE.

Jose described himself as happy on the day of his installation: *"I'm ready to save money on my electricity bill!"*

"It's a positive, engaging, and educational experience! Helping the environment with renewable energy. I'm all for that."



IMPACT



\$40,000

Lifetime Savings



250

Tons CO2 Reduction



54

Cars taken off the road



3,750

Trees planted

San Bernardino Resident Anna Ramirez Gets Solar From GRID IE With Help From Bank of America Volunteers



“Without my Outreach Coordinator, Zoe, and the funds that made these improvements possible, this would not be happening. Thank you, GRID IE and Bank of America volunteers,”

In November 2024, GRID Inland Empire and Bank of America joined forces in San Bernardino to bring solar power to the Ramirez family through a Sponsored Team-Building Volunteer Workday. The day represented more than just the installation of a solar system. It was about neighbors and partners working together to reduce energy burdens, fight climate change, and strengthen local communities.

Bank of America employees arrived ready to work alongside GRID IE’s Construction Team, guided by the shared mission of making clean energy affordable and accessible for families like the Ramirezes. While strong winds prevented panels from being installed on the roof, the volunteers still had the opportunity to complete critical preparation. On the roof, they assisted GRID’s professional installers with racking and wiring to ensure that the structure was ready for the solar panels once conditions improved. On the ground, volunteers received hands-on training in reading electrical plans, labeling equipment, and learning safe handling protocols for solar panels and conduit.

For many of the volunteers, this was a rare opportunity to step outside of their daily routines and connect directly with the kind of work their company supports through community investment. Minerva, a Bank of America Market Leader in Corona and Riverside, described herself as **“energetic, helpful, and positive”** after painting and labeling electrical panels alongside fellow volunteer Lisa. She reflected on her experience, saying, **“It was a fun experience. Javier helped me do everything right.”** Volunteers gained both technical skills and a deeper appreciation for the impact clean energy can have on working families.

“It’s hot here for more than half of the year. Especially during the summer, most of my paycheck goes toward the electric bill. I’m excited to see how it’s going to save me money and impact my family,” shared Anna Ramirez, a San Bernardino homeowner and recipient of GRID IE’s grant-funded solar program.



For Anna, the day marked the culmination of a journey she had carefully considered. Like many homeowners, she wanted to reduce her energy bills but was cautious about entering into a program that might limit her options in the future. ***“I wanted to make sure that I would not be locked into a situation where I could not sell my house or refinance,”*** she explained. ***“Through GRID’s program, I still have that choice. GRID is working with me.”*** Her Outreach Coordinator, Zoe O., provided clear information and guidance at every step, ensuring Anna felt comfortable and supported.

Anna also shared her gratitude for the additional support that made her installation possible. GRID IE’s program connected her with funds that helped trim a large tree shading her roof and to complete re-roofing to prepare her home for solar. ***“Without my Outreach Coordinator, Zoe, and the funds that made these improvements possible, this would not be happening. Thank you, GRID IE and Bank of America volunteers,”*** Anna said.

The Ramirez home will soon be powered by a 5.4 kW solar system, which will provide twenty thousand of dollars in

energy savings over its lifetime. Beyond the financial benefits, the system will prevent 27 tons of carbon dioxide emissions, which is the environmental equivalent of removing 6 cars from the road or planting 413 trees. These numbers represent more than statistics; they mean lower bills, cleaner air, and a healthier future for Anna’s children.

This work is part of GRID IE’s larger mission to combine clean energy access with community empowerment. For Bank of America employees, the workday was a tangible expression of their company’s commitment to sustainability and equity. For Anna, it was the start of a new chapter in her family’s journey toward stability and resilience. And for GRID IE, it was one more step in creating cleaner, healthier, and more connected neighborhoods across the Inland Empire.

GRID IE is deeply grateful to the Bank of America team for their partnership, hard work, and enthusiasm. Together, we are proving that when communities, nonprofits, and businesses unite around shared goals, the results are transformative for both people and the planet.

“Without my Outreach Coordinator, Zoe, and the funds that made these improvements possible, this would not be happening. Thank you, GRID IE and Bank of America volunteers,”



IMPACT

- \$20,070**
Lifetime Savings
- 27**
Tons CO2 Reduction
- 5**
Cars taken off the road
- 413**
Trees planted

Edison International Volunteers Join GRID IE to Power the Diaz Family Home

In October 2024, the Diaz family welcomed GRID Inland Empire and volunteers from Edison International to their home for a Sponsored Team-Building Volunteer Workday. The day not only brought clean energy to the Diaz household but also created an inspiring atmosphere of teamwork and community support. Thanks to program funds, the Diaz home also received re-roofing to make it solar-ready, ensuring the installation would deliver long-lasting benefits.

"I saw GRID's name in a letter from the City of Moreno Valley, so I knew that they must be a trusted organization," said Joshua Diaz, a Moreno Valley resident and recipient of GRID IE's grant-funded solar program.

For Joshua, applying for no-cost solar was a life-changing decision that arrived during a particularly memorable moment for his family. *"That day was a big day for my family, since my wife went into labor with our third child,"* Joshua recalled. *"I was pretty nervous, but also excited. I had so much to get done."* Despite the whirlwind of welcoming a new baby, Joshua was determined to set his growing family up for a more stable financial future. The family's main goal for going solar with GRID IE was to reduce the strain of their rising electric bills, which often climbed during the hottest months of the year.

On installation day, Edison International employees rolled up their sleeves to work alongside GRID IE's professional crew, gaining hands-on experience in solar installation while making a visible difference for a local family. Volunteers learned about the racking and wiring needed to secure panels on the roof,





as well as the safety and precision required when handling solar equipment. The effort went far beyond a typical volunteer activity. It gave the Edison International team the chance to directly invest in their community while helping reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Joshua was quick to highlight the support he and his family received from GRID IE's staff throughout the process. He expressed gratitude for his Outreach Coordinator, Andrew Alvarez, who guided him through the application and qualification steps, and for Solar Installation Supervisor, Danny Montero, who ensured the installation process was smooth and professional. **"We are happy, relieved, and excited,"** Joshua and his family shared, emphasizing the sense of security and optimism the solar project brought to their home.

The numbers tell a powerful story. The Diaz family's new 5.46 kW solar system will generate an estimated \$20,848 in lifetime savings on energy bills. At the same time, the system will prevent 88 tons of carbon dioxide emissions, the equivalent of removing over a dozen cars from the road or planting 2,048 trees. For the Diaz family, these numbers translate into real-life impact: lower expenses, cleaner air, and a brighter future for their children.

GRID Inland Empire is proud to partner with Edison International, whose volunteers demonstrated not only their technical ability but also their commitment to creating stronger, more sustainable neighborhoods. By combining GRID's mission-driven approach with corporate volunteerism,

this project showcased what can happen when community organizations, families, and businesses work together toward a common purpose.

The Diaz family's journey is one of hope and resilience. What began with a simple letter from the City of Moreno Valley turned into a life-changing opportunity, made possible by collaboration and trust. As Joshua and his wife celebrate the arrival of their new baby, they also look forward to celebrating the savings and stability that their solar installation will bring for years to come.

GRID IE extends heartfelt thanks to the Edison International team for their partnership and hard work. Together, we are ensuring that clean, renewable energy reaches the families who need it most.

"I saw GRID's name in a letter from the City of Moreno Valley, so I knew that you must be a trusted organization,"



IMPACT



\$20,848

Lifetime Savings



88

Tons CO2 Reduction



17

Cars taken off the road



2,048

Trees planted

Pacific Premier Bank Volunteers Bring Solar to the Hanan Family Home



In October 2024, GRID IE welcomed a team of Pacific Premier Bank employees to Riverside, California, for a Sponsored Team-Building Volunteer Workday. These corporate-sponsored volunteer days not only fund support for GRID IE’s work but also give participants the chance to roll up their sleeves and directly contribute to bringing solar power to local families. For the Hanan family, the day meant a brighter, more affordable energy future.

Anthony and his colleague Jerry arrived eager to learn and quickly joined GRID IE’s Construction Team on-site. Under the guidance of Solar Installation Supervisor Danny M., volunteers helped wire the combiner box and carefully place and secure solar panels on the roof. GRID IE staff emphasized safety, teamwork, and education throughout the process, ensuring volunteers understood both the technical steps and the broader impact their work would have for the family.

By mid-day, after a productive morning of climbing ladders, running conduit, and learning to use tools they had never held

before, the Pacific Premier Bank team gathered for a well-deserved GRID-provided lunch alongside the installation crew. It was a time to share stories, ask questions, and reflect on how meaningful it felt to be part of a project that blends skilled building with community service.

“They did great,” said Danny, who along with the rest of GRID IE’s Construction Team, takes pride in offering hands-on training opportunities for volunteers. Whether they are corporate partners, students, or community members, volunteers always leave with both a sense of accomplishment and a deeper understanding of renewable energy.

For Anthony, the day was eye-opening. *“When I retire, it would be great to have new projects that allow me to volunteer and help the community, just like GRID IE does,”* he said with a smile. He encouraged others who may be on the fence about volunteering to give it a try: *“Just do it!”* His enthusiasm reflected the spirit of the day, where learning, teamwork, and purpose came together in service of the community.



The impact of this installation goes far beyond the workday. The 1.95 kW solar system will provide lasting benefits to the Hanan family by lowering their energy bills and increasing the home’s resiliency. Environmentally, the system will prevent 31 tons of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere over its lifetime. That is the equivalent of taking six cars off the road or planting 714 trees. These measurable outcomes illustrate the ripple effect of each installation, showing how one day of volunteer work translates into decades of environmental and financial impact.

“I feel fantastic! It’s been a long time since I’ve volunteered like this. It’s educational and labor intensive,” shared Anthony F., a first-time volunteer with GRID IE and a Senior


Branch Manager at Pacific Premier Bank.

GRID Inland Empire extends its gratitude to Pacific Premier Bank and its volunteers for their partnership and dedication. By combining corporate sponsorship with hands-on service, GRID IE is able to bring more solar installations to families across the Inland Empire while strengthening community ties. This collaboration with Pacific Premier Bank is another example of how local businesses can make a lasting difference, one rooftop at a time.

Thank you, Pacific Premier Bank volunteers, for helping us bring solar to our Inland Empire neighborhoods. We look forward to building many more projects together.




IMPACT




\$8,456

Lifetime Savings




31

Tons CO2 Reduction



6

Cars taken off the road



714

Trees planted

72

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2024 IMPACT REPORT

EXPANDED EDITION