



OUR MULTIFAMILY WORK IN ACTION:

Sol Naciente, Fort Morgan, CO

Overview

In 2015, GRID Alternatives partnered with NeighborWorks America and Community Resources & Housing Development Corporation (CRHDC) to install a solar electric system on the Sol Naciente affordable housing development in Fort Morgan, Colorado. The 80.5 kilowatt system will power 50 multifamily units and a community center across six buildings in the development, which is slated to open in May 2016. Sol Naciente is sited in close proximity to agricultural fields in Fort Morgan, the primary source of employment for the residents of this community. The system was installed by local job trainees, students, veterans and other community volunteers.

Partnership

Sol Naciente was developed by CRHDC, a NeighborWorks America affiliate and nonprofit that provides affordable housing solutions to low-income residents throughout Colorado. NeighborWorks America, a national nonprofit that creates opportunities for people to live in affordable homes,

improve their lives, and strengthen their communities, partnered with GRID Alternatives in 2015 to provide \$170,000 in grant funding to nine affiliates, including CRHDC, for projects with GRID. GRID in turn provided technical assistance, fundraising for local matching grants, turnkey solar installation and job training for local residents.

Financing

The Sol Naciente project was financed with \$15,000 in grant funding from NeighborWorks America, local matching funds leveraged by that grant, and funding from Low-Income Housing Tax Credits and the Federal Solar Investment Tax Credit, through a third-party equity partner. The project also received support from USDA Rural Development, Colorado Division of Housing, Neighborhood Stabilization Funding, and Enterprise funds.



Community Impacts

Fort Morgan is located in the northeastern region of Colorado where farming is the dominant industry. Sol Naciente will provide affordable living accommodations to local farmworkers and their families, many of whom are refugees or recent immigrants often struggling to make ends meet. Families earning 60 percent or less of the Area Median Income are eligible to apply for housing in the development.

The solar on each of the Sol Naciente buildings is net metered through the city of Fort Morgan, and will generate immediate electricity savings that CRHDC will pass on to the tenants in the form of improved services and upgrades to the air-conditioning system to make the dry, hot summers of this region more comfortable for residents.

Workforce Development

GRID Alternatives led the installation using our unique volunteer and workforce development model, which provides hands-on solar training opportunities for local residents, including students from area community colleges, local job training programs, and GRID's SolarCorps fellowship program, a 13-month paid job training program. Students from GRID's job training partner Ecotech Institute also participated in several installation days, giving students the opportunity to supplement their renewable energy coursework with hands-on training. GRID Alternatives will also offer energy efficiency workshops to the residents of Sol Naciente.



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GRID Alternatives is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to make renewable energy technology and training available to underserved communities. Our vision is a successful transition to clean, renewable energy that includes everyone.

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