



For immediate release

GRID Alternatives Bay Area install no-cost solar for Menlo Park family as new initiative increases training opportunities for Spanish-speaking participants
Volunteers from Tesla's Latinos at Tesla Employee Resource Group joined GRID for Spanish-language installation

[En español](#)

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MENLO PARK, CA; January 22, 2020 -- The Villa family of Menlo Park is looking forward to years of savings after an all Spanish-speaking crew of GRID Alternatives Bay Area staff and volunteers from Tesla's Latinos at Tesla Employee Resource Group installed a no-cost solar system on the families' home. GRID Alternatives Bay Area is a leader in making renewable energy technology and job training accessible to low-income and underserved communities.

The 2.2-kilowatt solar panel system installed on Saturday will have a positive impact on the Villa family and the environment. The solar panels will help the Villa family save more than \$13,000 over the life of the system. The system will also prevent more than 23 tons of carbon pollution, the equivalent of planting more than 500 trees. Homeowners interested in no-cost solar can see if they qualify by visiting energyforallprogram.org or calling **866-921-4696**.

"Over the years, Tesla employees have volunteered hundreds of hours to help install solar on homes just like this one, but this is the first time we've hosted an entirely Spanish-speaking crew on the job site," said Karolo Aparicio, director of corporate partnerships for GRID Alternatives. "Our mission is to expand who gets access to this technology and who works in this industry and we're grateful for Tesla's contribution to this work."

This Spanish-language installation was made possible because of a GRID Bay Area initiative - launch by Bay Area SolarCorps Fellows and outreach staff - to translate volunteer orientation, installation, and training materials as an effort to increase GRID's job training opportunities to individuals for whom language may be a barrier to entry.

"We see a great need to include traditionally underrepresented groups into the solar industry," said Melissa Bergsneider Serrano, SolarCorps Workforce Development Fellow at GRID Alternatives.

Luis Amar, GRID Alternatives SolarCorps Fellow, added, “It was exciting to see what we all worked for come to reality. We had a fantastic installation day and we will continue to support future volunteer opportunities for the Spanish speaking community.”

“We are hoping this [solar installation] can help us lower electricity costs and maybe that more people want to put solar energy to help the environment,” said homeowner Juan Villa. His daughter Joanna added, “it is great that all [volunteers and staff] speak Spanish. It is a beautiful experience for my parents because they can understand better with all of you.”

Saturday’s solar installation is part of a national partnership between GRID Alternatives and Tesla, expanding clean energy access while unlocking thousands of hours of job training opportunities through GRID’s unique hands-on training model.

[\[Link to photo and video from installation\]](#)

About GRID Alternatives Bay Area

GRID Alternatives Bay Area is an affiliate of GRID Alternatives, a national leader in making renewable energy technology and job training accessible to low-income communities and communities of color. Using a unique, people-first model, GRID Bay Area develops and implements solar and clean mobility projects that serve qualifying households and affordable housing providers, while providing hands-on job training. GRID Bay Area has installed solar for 2,000 families to-date and helped households and housing providers save \$40 million in lifetime electricity costs, while engaging over 6,000 people in solar education and training. For more information, visit www.gridalternatives.org/bayarea.