

Generating the Next Generation: Community partnerships to create a clean energy future

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The Challenge

How do we inspire and prepare future energy workforce and consumers to engage in clean energy when energy is something not well understood by many and overlooked by most?

The Solution

Bridge the gap between renewable project developments installed on or around community and educational facilities and the innovative, career-connected education programs occurring in these facilities.

1 Think Beyond the Meter and into the Community

Energy procurement consultants, planners, and developers can differentiate their proposals by speaking directly to the needs of the local community.

Some ways to demonstrate this commitment include:

- Consider how a community benefits agreement may increase the value of your proposed renewable energy project
- Highlight how this line item for education is an integral part of the full project - rather than as an option or add-on.

2 Develop Meaningful Partnerships

Solar developers and utilities in Oregon linked over 8MW of solar projects with teacher training and leadership development, durable science kits, and solar industry volunteers in the classroom to expose thousands of area students to potential career pathways in renewable energy.

3 Empower Students to Create a Clean Energy Future

Impactful education leads to solutions for the future by preparing the next generation of clean energy leaders.

The Future: Interconnections

Renewable energy can be deployed in a manner that not only connects to grid systems, but to the educational systems that build the pipeline of industry talent.

Industry Benefits

- Product differentiation
- Visibility of company commitment to community
- Thought leadership
- Meet CSR, SDG or B-corp requirements
- Build future workforce and customers
- Direct Community Benefits
- Build an actual pathway to meet industry diversity, equity and inclusion goals around workforce equity

Case Study: Three-Year Educational Program in Portland, Oregon

- **Real-World Example.** 1.2 MW PV on 6 school roofs
- **Educational Programming.** Series of teacher trainings, deep curriculum development and student afterschool engineering activities for a district of about 50,000 students
- **Impact In the first year:** 46 K-12 teachers from 25 schools and 3 NGOs - over 4,800 students engaged!
- **District-wide science kits** for K-12 classes and afterschool programs
- **Graduate Credit** option for Teachers
- **Teacher Stipends** for extra work on new training and curriculum
- **In-classroom presentations** by Solar Industry Professionals provided by local industry association's nonprofit affiliate
- **Online Solar Data Monitoring and Kiosk Display**

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