California Wildfires: Visit Our Emergency Response Hub for Information and Resources

Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas Grant Selections for Award Negotiations

View of Ouzinkie

Awarded Projects

- Adams Electric Cooperative Green Energy Project
- Clean Energy and Efficiency for Dallas County Alabama Schools
- Cost-Effective and Equitable Cooperative Community Solar in Western Maine
- Decarbonizing the Tongass with Tribally Owned Heat Pumps
- East Central Community College Solar and Lighting Upgrades
- Greencare: Empowering Resilience in Poteau

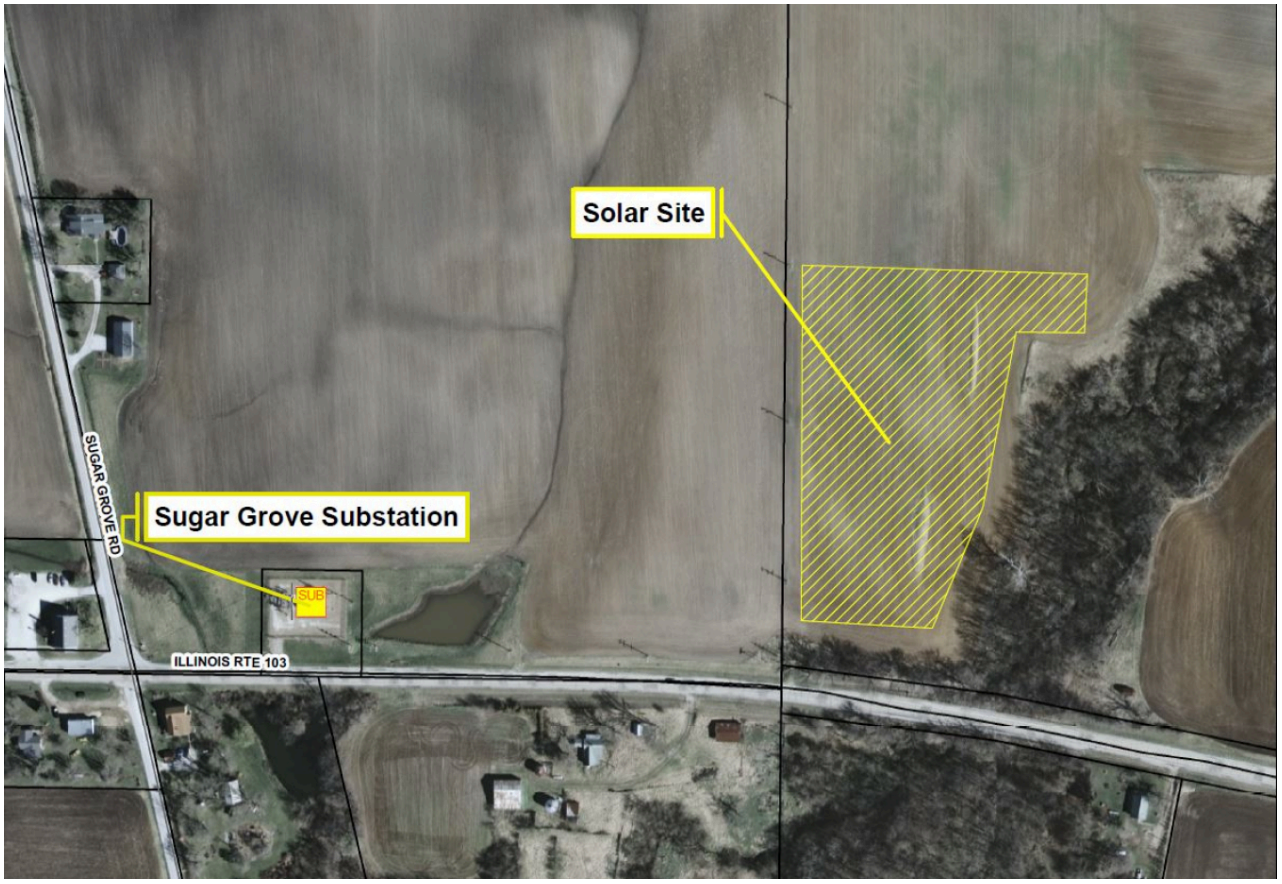
- Grid Access and Resiliency for Unserved Rural and Indigenous People Project
- High Penetration Solar-Battery Project
- Kokhanok's Paradigm Shift: Big Battery as our System's Energy Backbone
- Lake City Area Power and Resiliency Augmentation Enterprise

- Navajo Sun Power! Home Solar Project
- New Stuyahok Solar-Battery
- Ouzinkie Independent Power Energy Improvement Project
- Permanent, High-Quality Clean Energy Access for Rural Indigenous Communities
- Ravalli Electric Community Storage Project
- Reliability and Cost Effectiveness in Rural Areas Using Environmentally Sound Practices
- Rural Rebuild and Reconductor
- Tanacross Solar PV and Tok Battery Energy Storage System
- Transmission Line Rebuild

Adams Electric Cooperative Green Energy Project

PROJECT FACT SHEET →

COMMUNITY BENEFITS COMMITMENTS SUMMARY →



Aerial view of proposed solar site

Federal Cost Share: Up to $5 million

Recipient: Adams Electric Cooperative

Location: Schuyler County, IL

Project Impacts:

- Deliver renewable energy to 7,500 members
- Stabilize electricity rates for members

- Collaborate with schools to support renewable energy curriculum

Project Summary: Adams Electric Cooperative (AEC) plans to install a 1 MW wind turbine and a 1 MW solar photovoltaic (solar PV) array to provide clean, renewable, and cost-effective electricity for the rural electric cooperative's approximately 7,500 members, including 1,264 members in Schuyler County. The project aims to reinvigorate disadvantaged communities affected by coal-mine closures and increase renewable energy production in Illinois. Once fully operational, the project is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, decrease dependence on fossil fuels, increase energy resiliency, and help stabilize electricity rates.

AEC is committed to creating equal opportunities for local residents when contracting with construction firms and vendors to generate jobs for the community. AEC aims to provide educational opportunities through collaboration with local high schools, workforce development centers, and economic development groups. For more information, email **East_ERA3045@hq.doe.gov**.

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Clean Energy and Efficiency for Dallas County Alabama Schools

PROJECT FACT SHEET →

COMMUNITY BENEFITS COMMITMENTS SUMMARY →

Students at Valley Grande Elementary School pictured with Principal John Solomon

Federal Cost Share: $4.9 million

Recipient: Dallas County Board of Education

Location: Dallas County, Alabama

Project Impacts:

- Provide solar power to reduce energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions for K-12 public schools across Dallas County, AL
- Replace aging HVAC and lighting systems to increase energy efficiency while reducing costs
- Collaborate with local workforce development programs, non-profits, and a historically black university to recruit and train interested residents for job opportunities

Project Summary: This project seeks to install energy-efficient retrofits at up to nine schools across Alabama's Dallas County School System (DCSS), many of which were constructed in the 1950s. DCCS would collaborate with renewable energy and energy efficiency company Ameresco to perform upgrades to HVAC units, lighting systems, and building controls at up to nine schools across the area, as well as install rooftop solar PV at three schools—modernizing DCSS schools with smart, energy efficient, and clean technology features. These upgrades would help remedy air quality issues, improve comfort and health conditions, and support better learning environments for thousands of K-12 students from Selma, AL's surrounding communities. DCSS would also be able to reinvest the operational and energy savings from this project into its students and facilities.

DCSS seeks to partner with the Black Belt Community Foundation to host jobs fairs, connecting local workers to construction opportunities associated with the project. DCSS also plans to initiate partnerships with several other organizations who support workforce development such as Wallace Community College, AlabamaWorks!, and Tuskegee University—a historically Black university—to recruit, train, and empower the local workforce to capitalize on quality clean energy jobs.

For more information, email **East_ERA3045@hq.doe.gov**.

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Cost-Effective and Equitable Cooperative Community Solar in

Western Maine

PROJECT FACT SHEET →

COMMUNITY BENEFITS COMMITMENTS SUMMARY →

Dual land use is an integral part of Maine Community Power Cooperative's approach to project development

Location: Western Maine

Federal Cost Share: Up to $5 million

Recipient: Maine Community Power Cooperative, Inc.

Project Impacts:

- Reduce annual household electricity costs by potentially 20-40%
- Ensure 50% of members are in low- or moderate-income households
- Work with the Rural Co-operative Development Training Program to develop a business model to create high-quality jobs for the region

Project Summary:

This project seeks to install arrays of 20 dual-axis tracking bifacial 198 kW solar photovoltaic (solar PV) panels at each of six sites in western Maine, generating clean solar power for the communities. The project is expected to create power generation revenue, which would be distributed by a consumer- and worker-owned electric cooperative to members, potentially reducing household electricity costs by 20-40%. In addition to offering a potentially replicable model for meaningful community ownership for solar projects, the use of solar tracking technology and the distribution of generation across many small sites can overcome the interconnection queues that have plagued other solar projects in states like Maine.

Project partners plan to ensure at least 50% of members are low- or moderate-income households. Maine Community Power Cooperative, Inc. also plans to partner with the University of Maine Future Sustainability Leaders Internship Program and the Oxford Hill Technical School training program to promote workforce development.

For more information, email **East_ERA3045@hq.doe.gov**.

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Decarbonizing the Tongass with Tribally Owned Heat Pumps Project

PROJECT FACT SHEET →

COMMUNITY BENEFITS COMMITMENTS SUMMARY →

Federal Cost Share: Up to $4.2 million

Recipient: Spruce Root

Location: Prince of Wales Island, Alaska

Project Impacts:

- Install air-source heat pumps in 240 tribally owned homes and buildings, reducing energy burdens and emissions from fossil fuel use
- Increase the use of local hydroelectricity to power the heat pumps, keeping rates affordable for all consumers
- Create local jobs and additional workforce development opportunities

Project Summary: This project plans to install air-source heat pumps in 240 tribally owned homes and community facilities on Prince of Wales Island, AK. Rural Alaskans require more heat than other Americans. For those living on

remote islands—like Prince of Wales—which are only accessible by small aircraft or ferry, the cost of importing heating oil can create a major energy burden. Converting existing heating oil and propane-based heating systems to air-source heat pumps would provide tribal homes with consistent heat produced more efficiently than resistance electric heaters. These heat pumps would make use of existing clean, hydroelectric resources, keeping rates affordable for all consumers by spreading operating costs widely.

This project would reduce the need for residents to purchase expensive heating oil barged from out of state and store it in fuel tanks, which are subject to leaks and spills—a risk to Indigenous homelands. Finally, heat pumps would dramatically reduce emissions, improving indoor and neighborhood air quality. Spruce Root has committed to providing local workforce development and training activities to empower residents to support the installation and maintenance of heat pumps.

For more information, email **Alaska_ERA3045@hq.doe.gov**.

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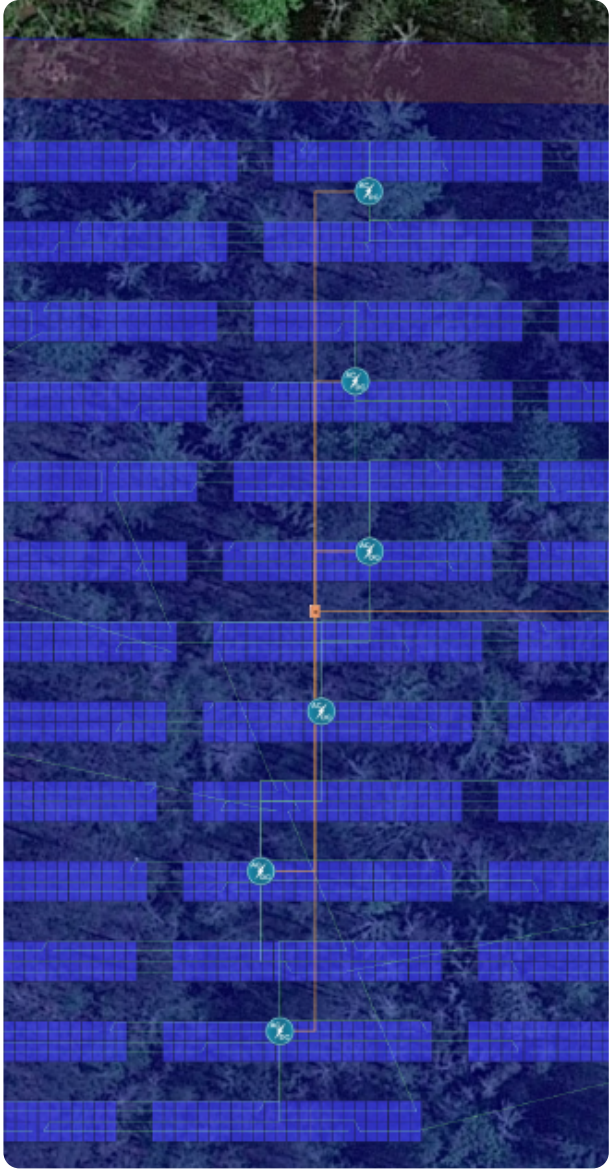
East Central Community College Solar and Lighting Upgrades



PROJECT FACT SHEET →

COMMUNITY BENEFITS COMMITMENTS SUMMARY →

Federal Cost Share: $3.9 million

Recipient: Path Company

Location: Decatur, Mississippi

Project Impacts:

- Install solar photovoltaic (solar PV) to provide clean power to 38 campus facilities and upgrade 25 facilities with energy efficient LED lighting
- Reduce annual energy costs for college by approximately $170,000
- Establish one of the first community college solar installation and maintenance curriculums in Mississippi

Project Summary: This project plans to install 1 MW of solar PV and upgrade 25 facilities with energy efficient LED lighting at East Central Community College (ECCC) in Decatur, MS.

ECCC plays a crucial role in the region by employing more than 210 faculty and staff, representing 13% of the town's population, and serving 2,400 students. Unfortunately, Decatur faces population, building, and economic losses, in addition to high poverty rates and disproportionately high energy costs. Aligned with the area's unique needs and push for energy equity, this project aims to significantly reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions for the local community college.

The proposed solar PV systems are expected to serve 38 facilities and designed to meet ECCC's peak energy demands. Additionally, this project intends to upgrade approximately 3,500 existing light fixtures with energy efficient LED fixtures and lamps, improving lighting and the student learning experience while reducing the campus' carbon footprint. The project aims to decrease the college's annual energy costs by approximately $170,000—funds that can be invested into the college and its students.

Project partners plan to collaborate with the City of Decatur to provide project updates to residents and gather input. As the award recipient, Path Company plans to develop a solar internship program and support a new solar curriculum at ECCC. Project partners will also commit 100% of the anticipated financial benefits to ECCC by reducing utility and operational costs.

For more information, email East_ERA3045@hq.doe.gov.

Greencare: Empowering Resilience in Poteau

PROJECT FACT SHEET →

COMMUNITY BENEFITS COMMITMENTS SUMMARY →

Choctaw Nation Poteau Health Clinic

Federal Cost Share: Up to $5 million

Recipient: Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Location: Poteau, Oklahoma

Project Impacts:

- Reduce reliance on diesel generators by installing a battery energy storage system, providing backup power and reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Upgrade seven buildings across the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's Poteau campus with energy efficient equipment
- Save $140,000 annually in electricity costs

Project Summary: This project aims to install approximately 2.1 MWh of battery energy storage systems—creating a microgrid—and implement energy-efficient upgrades in seven buildings on the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's (CNO) Poteau campus. Located near "Tornado Alley," storms can be particularly intense, with powerful winds, heavy rainfall, high winter-weather risks, and tornados. In fact, the campus has averaged three outages a year since 2018, pausing vital social services provided by their health clinic, child development center, and food distribution center. This microgrid would allow continued operation of these critical campus facilities during power outages, while reducing reliance on diesel generators and associated air pollution. The project's energy efficiency improvements could include everything from insulation, HVAC upgrades, lighting retrofits, and building enhancements. Energy efficient improvements would also include replacing less energy efficient lighting fixtures with highly efficient LED fixtures.

These energy efficiency upgrades, added resilience, and reduced reliance on diesel generators during outages aim to lower electricity costs, saving an estimated $140,000 in electricity costs each year. This project also anticipates increasing local employment opportunities.

For more information, email West_ERA3045@hq.doe.gov.

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Grid Access and Resiliency for Unserved Rural and Indigenous People Project

PROJECT FACT SHEET →

COMMUNITY BENEFITS COMMITMENTS SUMMARY →

This vibratory cable plow is used to install underground distribution circuits, serving rural communities in Ferry and Okanogan counties

Federal Cost Share: Up to $5 million

Recipient: Public Utility District #1 of Ferry County (PUD)

Locations: Ferry and Okanogan Counties, Washington

Project Impacts:

- Improve energy equity and resilience by extending electrical access to approximately 135-190 off-grid households via underground distribution lines
- Electrify unserved homes that currently lack grid power and rely on diesel generators for the first time
- Alleviate energy burdens, power modern necessities to help residents improve health outcomes, and potential to increase education and employment opportunities

Project Summary: This project aims to extend 30 miles of underground, electric distribution lines into a rural, unserved area in northeast Washington. To support this extension, the proposed project intends to upgrade the Strassburg Substation to increase its service capacity and resilience. Underground power lines are built to last, virtually eliminating outages due to infrastructure damage from heavy winds, fallen limbs, and wildfires. PUD estimates that this project could extend grid access to approximately 135-190 full-time residential households that currently lack grid power and rely on diesel generators.

PUD serves approximately 3,200 residential customers in six Justice40 communities, many of whom experience high energy burden due to low household incomes and extreme local weather events. PUD estimates approximately 200 full-time residential households lack access to the grid and rely on diesel generators for electricity. The project aims to connect homes to the grid to reduce dependence on diesel generators, improve air quality and health, and power modern necessities. To reduce customer connection costs, the Community Benefits Taskforce will assist in developing an application process for Justice40 community members to receive financial assistance.

For more information, email **West_ERA3045@hq.doe.gov**.

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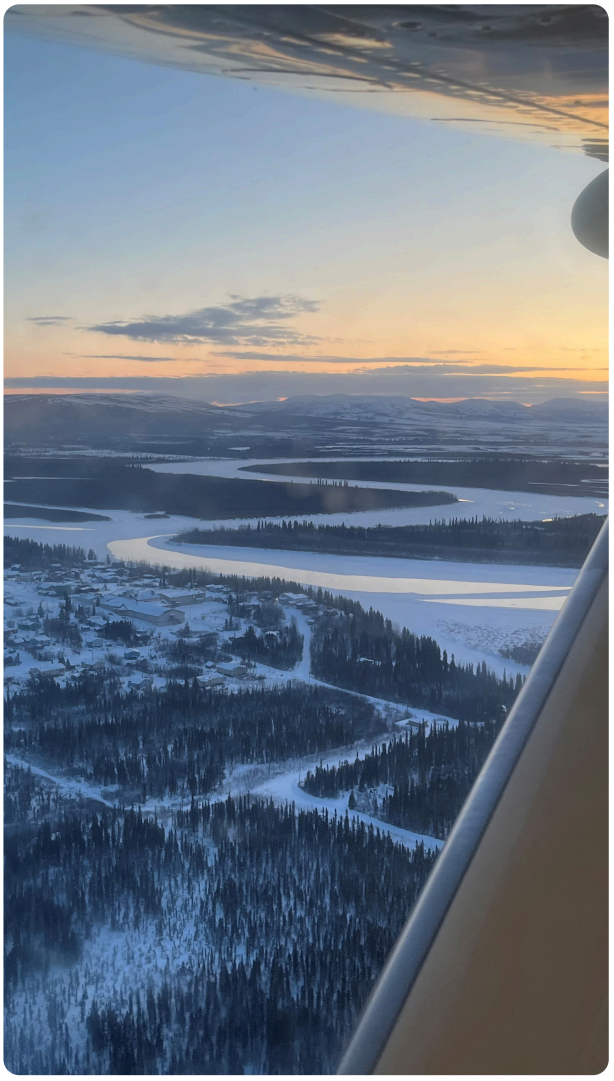
High Penetration Solar-Battery Project

PROJECT FACT SHEET →

COMMUNITY BENEFITS COMMITMENTS SUMMARY →



Federal Cost Share: Up to $2.8 million

Recipient: Northwest Arctic Borough

Location: Ambler, Alaska

Project Impacts:

- Upgrade existing power plant to integrate clean energy and storage into islanded microgrid
- Decrease diesel usage by more than 20,000 gallons annually, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, noise pollution, and risk of fuel spills
- Village ownership of renewable generating assets that will provide 22% of community's electricity

Project Summary: This project plans to implement upgrades to Alaska Village Electric Cooperative power plant infrastructure that will improve efficiency and support the eventual integration of a 525 kW solar photovoltaic (solar PV)

system and a 990 kWh battery energy storage system into Ambler, AK's microgrid. Located 45 miles north of the Arctic Circle, Ambler experiences long daylight hours with abundant sunlight during the summer months, making solar PV technology an ideal choice. The solar PV and energy storage assets—which were selected for funding through DOE's Office of Indian Energy and a separate OCED award—can only be integrated once this project's power plant upgrades are complete.

Once integrated, the solar PV and battery energy storage system could displace more than 20,000 gallons of diesel annually, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, noise pollution, and the risk of fuel spills. This system could meet 22% of Ambler's power needs, enabling the community's diesel generators to be turned off for the first time in more than 40 years. The Native Village of Ambler plans to own and operate the renewable generating assets to ensure system operations, maintenance, and performance for the life of the asset.

For more information, email **Alaska_ERA3045@hq.doe.gov**.

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Kokhanok's Paradigm Shift: Big Battery as our System's Energy Backbone Project

PROJECT FACT SHEET →

COMMUNITY BENEFITS COMMITMENTS SUMMARY →

Aerial overview of Kokhanok Community

Federal Cost Share: Up to $5 million

Recipient: Kokhanok Village Council

Location: Kokhanok, Alaska

Project Impacts:

- Install battery energy storage system, solar PV, and wind turbine to a microgrid, helping transition to 100% renewable energy
- Displace 70% or more of the village's diesel use within the first two years of the project's operations, with future diesel primarily used to charge the battery storage system
- Install heating units in elders' homes, reducing their annual heating costs

Project Summary: This project seeks to install a 1 MW battery energy storage system—as well as 100 kW solar PV, a new 100 kW wind turbine, and electric thermal storage (ETS) heating units—to Kokhanok, Alaska's microgrid. Like many villages in remote Alaska, Kokhanok Village is only accessible by barge and plane, and Kokhanok uses diesel to supplement other power sources. However, the village of 170 residents, primarily Alutiiq, Dena'ina, and Yup'ik indigenous peoples, wants to transition to 100% renewable energy. Adding this range of clean energy sources and storage would be a big step toward achieving this goal. This project would significantly increase the microgrid's reliability and resilience, while vastly reducing residents' dependence on diesel. Based on energy use analysis, the upgrades to Kokhanok's microgrid would displace an anticipated 70% of the local power plant's diesel use within the first two years of the project's operations, improving the community's air quality and reducing outages and electricity costs.

In addition to advancing clean energy, this project would demonstrate the replicability and scalability of an islanded microgrid anchored by a large-capacity battery. Kokhanok expects its electricity needs to increase over time due to population growth and the use of electric vehicles, heat pumps, and more. By anticipating this demand, the system's scalable design can integrate everything from customer-owned solar PV to larger-scale, clean energy technology— as funding for future projects becomes available. The Kokhanok Village Council plans to work with the Lake & Peninsula Borough to educate sister tribal communities on their efforts and results. Additionally, the Kokhanok Village Council plans to install ETS heating units into 10 elder residents' homes to reduce each home's annual diesel-heating costs by approximately $850 to $1,000.

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Lake City Area Power and Resiliency Augmentation Enterprise

PROJECT FACT SHEET →

COMMUNITY BENEFITS COMMITMENTS SUMMARY →

GCEA staff discusses the Lake City area line upgrade project with a community member

Federal Cost Share: Up to $5 million

Recipient: Gunnison County Electric Association

Location: Colorado

Project Impacts:

- Replace 30 miles of aged, overhead electric distribution lines, mitigating the rising costs of maintaining outdated and unreliable infrastructure
- Increase grid reliability for rural Gunnison County residents who experience frequent power outages
- Create clean energy jobs

Project Summary: This project plans to replace 30 miles of aged, overhead electric distribution lines to deliver reliable energy to rural Colorado for the next 50 years. During the last two years, the service area experienced 76 outages due to extreme weather conditions and the threat of wildfires, including a 28-hour outage during sub-zero overnight temperatures. Upgrading electric distribution infrastructure will enhance local grid resilience, reduce operational and maintenance costs, prevent fires due to overloading, and facilitate the integration of more renewable energy. These benefits will also promote greater prosperity for the local community by supporting the growth of businesses, farms, ranching, and housing while mitigating climate threats that prevent residents from living and working full-time in the region.

Gunnison County Electric Association (GCEA) plans to continue to engage and collaborate with community stakeholders—including government officials, health care and emergency services providers, and local farmers and ranchers—to build strong support for this project and mitigate potential risks to local communities and ecosystems. The project will host in-person informational events and leverage its existing newsletter, website, and social media channels to share project updates and create pathways for two-way engagement.

For more information, email **East_ERA3045@hq.doe.gov**.

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Navajo Sun Power! Home Solar Project

PROJECT FACT SHEET →

COMMUNITY BENEFITS COMMITMENTS SUMMARY →

NTEC's pilot program installing solar panels to a Navajo home

Federal Cost Share: Up to $2.6 million

Recipient: Navajo Transitional Energy Company

Location: Navajo Nation

Project Impacts:

- Reduce the number of homes without access to electricity
- Reduce energy burden, improve air quality, and deliver essential power to residents.

Project Summary: This project plans to install a 3 kW solar photovoltaic (solar PV) array with battery energy storage systems on up to 75 off-grid Navajo Nation homes. A significant portion of Navajo Nation homes do not have reliable access to electricity, often depriving residents of essential home resources like refrigeration, medical devices, and internet access. The selected homes are located far from the grid as well as other structures, which has delayed electrification. The Navajo Transitional Energy Company (NTEC) has already installed 24 home solar systems and plans to use the same approach to deliver essential power to the additional homes. The project's compact systems expect to reduce energy burdens, improve air quality, and deliver essential power to residents.

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New Stuyahok Solar-Battery

PROJECT FACT SHEET →

COMMUNITY BENEFITS COMMITMENTS SUMMARY →

Fuel barge

Location: New Stuyahok, Alaska

Federal Cost Share: Up to $4.3 million

Recipient: Alaska Village Electric Cooperative

Project Impacts:

- Install solar PV array to generate clean power from the region's extended daylight hours and abundant sunlight during summer months
- Increase use of clean energy and storage to decrease electricity rates, emissions, and noise pollution
- Reduce reliance on imported diesel fuels and integrate clean energy to increase microgrid's resilience

Project Summary: This project proposes to construct a 500 kW solar PV array, a 540 kWh battery energy storage system, and a microgrid controller in the remote Dillingham region of southwest Alaska. Rural Yup'ik villages face unique challenges, including isolation from major road systems and power grids. They also experience extended daylight hours and abundant sunlight during the summer months, making solar PV technology an ideal choice. The clean energy generated would displace fuel consumption at an existing diesel power plant that serves the Native Alaskan communities of New Stuyahok and Ekwok by an estimated 24%. By reducing reliance on imported fuels and integrating clean energy, this project aims to increase microgrid resiliency. Curtailing diesel consumption would also reduce noise pollution, improve air quality, and reduce the volume of fuel transported on the Nushagak River, significantly lowering the potential for accidental spills that could impact critical salmon ecosystems.

Project partners plan to conduct numerous training sessions per year to onboard and retain local power plant operators. The Alaska Village Electric Cooperative also plans to form an operational agreement with both the Tribe and the City of New Stuyahok to establish a utility board that would oversee operations and provide community input for the project.

For more information, email **Alaska_ERA3045@hq.doe.gov**.

Ouzinkie Independent Power Energy Improvement Project

PROJECT FACT SHEET →

COMMUNITY BENEFITS COMMITMENTS SUMMARY →

Aerial view of Ouzinkie, Alaska

Federal Cost Share: Up to $2.3 million

Recipient: Native Village of Ouzinkie

Location: Spruce Island, Alaska

Project Impacts:

- Provide clean, reliable power that meets the geographic, economic, and cultural needs of Ouzinkie's residents
- Reduce community dependence on diesel fuel and provide resilient backup power during extreme weather events
- Support local workforce through apprenticeship programs, scholarships, and post-secondary education opportunities

Project Summary: This project seeks to construct a 160 kW solar PV array and 210 kWh battery energy storage system for a microgrid for the Native Village of Ouzinkie on Spruce Island, Alaska. The proposed solar and battery system is the most cost-effective and low-maintenance renewable energy option for this community. This makes it the best fit to meet the geographic, economic, and cultural needs of Ouzinkie's roughly 128 residents, who engage in subsistence lifestyles that include seasonal fishing, hunting, and berry picking, as there is no grocery store on Spruce Island. For these resources to last during seasonal lows, modern refrigeration and stable electricity are vital. The battery energy storage system plans to provide reliable, resilient, back-up power during maintenance outages, reducing diesel use, in addition to air and noise pollution. Using less diesel fuel will decrease the potential incidence of spills and contamination of the environment by petroleum products, which harm marine ecosystems on which Ouzinkie residents depend for food.

The project also expects to reduce electricity costs by an estimated 10% and to generate revenue that could subsidize water and sewer bills. Additionally, the Native Village of Ouzinkie will partner with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, the state's largest nonprofit, to provide project support including onsite training on operations and maintenance, including involvement of local youth.

For more information, email Alaska_ERA3045@hq.doe.gov.

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Permanent, High-Quality Clean Energy Access for Rural Indigenous Communities

PROJECT FACT SHEET →

COMMUNITY BENEFITS COMMITMENTS SUMMARY →

Navajo Power Home customer shown with solar panels

Federal Cost Share: Up to $5 million

Recipient: Navajo Power Home (NPHome)

Location: Navajo Nation

Project Impacts:

- Deliver clean energy access to up to 400 off-grid Navajo homes that meet the unique needs of dispersed indigenous communities
- Provide approximately 140 homes with a reduced rate, enabling residents access to high-quality, zero-carbon energy
- Reduce the use of gas generators as a main power source, decreasing air and noise pollution, while improving the lives of residents

Project Summary: This project plans to install a total of 568 kW of solar PV and 1,768 kWh of battery energy storage systems on up to 400 off-grid homes

across Navajo Nation. Approximately 140 of those homes would receive their service at a reduced rate. Navajo communities have some of the best solar resources in the country, but thousands of tribal homes lack access to the electric grid. In lieu of a consistent power source, many residents use gas generators that are expensive to operate, inefficient to run, emit air pollution, and produce noise pollution. Reliable access to renewable energy will improve the livelihoods and health outcomes of these tribal members. It will also create economic and energy resilience in an area historically and systemically excluded from such development.

Once these proven technology systems are installed, this project plans to provide cost-effective, reliable, clean energy access that meets the unique needs of dispersed indigenous communities. NPHome will help customers maximize their solar energy service by consulting with them on best practices for in-home appliance use and which energy efficient appliances to purchase, in addition to providing free LED replacement of incandescent bulbs. NPHome is also familiar with Navajo language, allowing for clear communication regarding service and support.

For more information, email West_ERA3045@hq.doe.gov.

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Ravalli Electric Community Storage Project

PROJECT FACT SHEET →

COMMUNITY BENEFITS COMMITMENTS SUMMARY →

Federal Cost Share: $4.9 million

Recipient: Pacific Northwest Generating Cooperative

Location: Victor, Montana

Project Impacts:

- Increase energy reliability by providing clean backup power during outages, keeping critical power on for two local volunteer fire departments and a local primary school
- Distribute energy during peak times, mitigating future wholesale power rate increases and decreasing greenhouse gas emissions from local power plants
- Promote educational, mentoring, and job-shadowing opportunities for youth from Justice40 communities

Project Summary: Pacific Northwest Generating Cooperative (PNGC) plans to install a battery energy storage system at the Ravalli Electric Cooperative's (REC) Woodside Substation serving Pinesdale and Victor, MT. These Justice40 communities are subject to extreme winter weather and growing wildfire risks.

This project would increase reliability during outages, ensuring clean backup power is available for two volunteer fire departments that need power to communicate during emergencies and a primary school that needs reliable power to serve as an emergency shelter during critical events. The proposed battery energy system could be charged by an existing community solar project or as a grid-connected system through electricity supplied by PNGC, which typically offers over 90% carbon-free electricity. PNGC and REC are member-owned electric cooperatives, so the project would indirectly benefit other members by reducing the REC system peak load and helping mitigate future wholesale power volatility.

As part of its community benefits commitments, project partners are committed to providing project updates through engagement events with emergency responders and co-op members. Additionally, project partners will promote educational, mentoring, and job-shadowing opportunities for youth from rural Justice40 communities by collaborating with the Trapper Creek Jobs Corps Civilian Conservation Center. Project partners are committed to prioritizing outreach to and opportunities for contractors from underrepresented populations and nearby tribes for procurement and contracting opportunities.

For more information, email West_ERA3045@hq.doe.gov.

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Reliability and Cost Effectiveness in Rural Areas Using Environmentally Sound Practices

PROJECT FACT SHEET →

COMMUNITY BENEFITS COMMITMENTS SUMMARY →

Cumberland Valley Electric office

Location: Bell County, Knox County, and Whitley County, KY

Federal Cost Share: Up to $5 million

Recipient: Cumberland Valley Electric

Project Impacts:

- Reduce power outages by 80% and reduce outage restoration costs
- Replace inefficient electrical fuses with self-restoring reclosers
- Create habitats for pollinators and wildlife, while reducing annual right-of-way maintenance costs

Project Summary:

This project aims to improve the grid reliability and resilience in Kentucky's Bell, Knox, and Whitley Counties by addressing two critical issues: inefficient fuses and vegetation management. Fuses protect utility equipment from damage caused by electric overloads and short circuits. By replacing them with self-restoring reclosers, Cumberland Valley Electric (CVE) could reduce outages by nearly 80% and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions by generating backup power or transporting line-crews. This project would also strategically clear right-of-way vegetation—minimizing outages caused by damaged power lines or wildfires from line sparks—and replant it with native species. Not only would this create habitats for pollinators and local wildlife, but it would reduce CVE's annual right-of-way maintenance costs by approximately $50,000.

CVE has made a commitment to prioritize the replanting of native plants like milkweed to promote the Monarch butterfly population. By using native grasses and plants and implementing sustainable right-of-way practices, the project would contribute to a reduction in emissions. The project also plans to host workshops and informational sessions on environmental conservation, energy efficiency, and career opportunities in the energy sector.

For more information, email East_ERA3045@hq.doe.gov.

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Rural Rebuild and Reconductor

PROJECT FACT SHEET →

COMMUNITY BENEFITS COMMITMENTS SUMMARY →

Linemen working on rural distribution system

Federal Cost Share: Up to $5 million

Recipient: Monongahela Power Company

Locations: Braxton, Clay, Grant, and Pocahontas counties in West Virginia

Project Impacts:

- Upgrade distribution lines to increase grid reliability for 3,000 customers in rural West Virginia
- Deliver measurable benefits to energy customers in rural or remote areas by improving resilience
- Engage with community-based organizations and labor unions to address workforce disparity gaps for historically under-resourced communities

Project Summary: This project plans to rebuild more than 23 miles of aged power-distribution lines in Braxton, Clay, Grant, and Pocahontas counties and connect a two-mile tie line with the Petersburg Substation. These upgrades would greatly increase grid reliability and resilience for 3,000 customers in rural communities in West Virginia. Once updated, the distribution lines would enable the Monongahela Power Company (Mon Power) and Potomac Edison to reroute customers to adjacent circuits while performing necessary repairs.

Mon Power plans to partner with community-based organizations and labor unions to address workforce disparity gaps for historically underrepresented communities. Additionally, their apprenticeship and paid internship programs would help develop a knowledgeable workforce to support the region's current and future clean energy needs. Committed to building trust, the project partners plan to continue engaging local and state governments, civic organizations, and community-based organizations—providing two-way engagement and community updates, while incorporating feedback into project plans.

For more information, email **East_ERA3045@hq.doe.gov**.

Tanacross Solar PV and Tok Battery Energy Storage System

PROJECT FACT SHEET →

COMMUNITY BENEFITS COMMITMENTS SUMMARY →

Solar array near Manley Hot Springs, Alaska

Federal Cost Share: Up to $5 million

Recipient: Tanana Chiefs Conference

Location: Native Villages of Tanacross and Tok, Alaska

Project Impacts:

- Displace more than 125,000 gallons of diesel and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Improve air quality and reduce energy costs for local communities, while supporting the construction of other future clean energy projects
- Annual revenue that will cover the costs of maintenance and establish a reserves fund for future replacement and expansion

Project Summary: The project plans to install upgrades at the Alaska Power & Telephone (AP&T) power plant in Tok, Alaska, providing the technical requirements to incorporate 1.5 MW of solar PV and a 1.5 MWh battery energy storage system on the grid that provides electricity to federally recognized tribes in Tanacross, Tetlin, and Dot Lake in Tok, Alaska. Located in a remote part of interior Alaska, these communities currently rely on expensive diesel fuel for energy. This project is estimated to displace more than 125,000 gallons of diesel and increase periods of diesels-off operations for the local electric utility, improving air quality and reducing noise pollution and energy costs for residents. In addition to generating cleaner electricity for Tok and the Villages of Tanacross and Tetlin, these improvements would provide local leaders with the option to add more renewable generation to Tok's microgrid, further reducing diesel consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, and costs.

Tanana Chiefs Conference plans to continue gathering tribal stakeholder input during public meetings. The project is expected to create local construction and maintenance employment opportunities. The proposed project could generate more than $380,000 annual revenue, which would be used to cover operations and maintenance costs and establish a reserve and replacement fund. Any remaining funds would be reinvested into the local tribal governments as well as set aside to support future renewable energy projects that will provide direct benefits to tribal citizens.

For more information, email Alaska_ERA3045@hq.doe.gov.

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Transmission Line Rebuild

PROJECT FACT SHEET →

COMMUNITY BENEFITS COMMITMENTS SUMMARY →

Snow Camp Transmisson

Federal Cost Share: Up to $4.9 million

Recipient: Randolph Electric Membership Corporation

Locations: Dover, Ether, Snow Camp, and Staley, North Carolina

Project Impacts:

- Replace deteriorating wooden transmission poles with galvanized steel poles, improving infrastructure durability and longevity
- Provide increased energy resilience to combat power outages and damage from extreme weather events in rural North Carolina communities
- Partner with North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation to create and implement a lineman apprenticeship program

Project Summary: The project plans to replace 177 deteriorating wooden transmission poles with galvanized steel poles, hardening a combined 21 miles of transmission lines in central North Carolina. The existing poles have been damaged due to the impacts of wildlife and other natural hazards. These upgrades aim to reduce outages, improve infrastructure durability and longevity, and maximize maintenance efficiency and safety. The project also seeks to help to mitigate rate increases for disadvantaged communities.

Randolph Electric Membership Corp, the selectee, plans to partner with North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC) provide lineman apprenticeship opportunities. The team also plans to collaborate with local schools, elected officials, and community organizations to provide clean energy education.

For more information, email East_ERA3045@hq.doe.gov.

FAQs

Q. What is the Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas program?

Q. How does this project selection announcement relate to other ERA program funding announcements?

Q. Where are the projects selected located?

Q. What are the anticipated benefits of the projects selected for award negotiation?

Q. How were these projects selected for award negotiation?

Q. How can I contact the DOE ERA Team?

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