



VIRTUAL SOLAR WARRIORS EMPOWERMENT TRAINING (SWET)



TREES, WATER & PEOPLE
Helping people and the planet

Increasing access to renewable energy technology empowers Tribal communities to create economic opportunities in resolving energy usage on Tribal Lands while reducing dependency on extractive and expensive fossil fuel based energy. We center traditional indigenous knowledge systems, within new solar energy technology education, to provide students with the tools to lead their Tribal communities into a more sustainable future. Our SWET workshops provide an engaging learning environment in which indigenous youth can explore sustainable energy systems and build confidence in their ability to contribute towards resolving their respective communities renewable energy needs.

The purpose of these workshops is to empower, educate & strengthen Tribal youth through solar education while employing a social/emotional learning approach.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Workshop cost estimates: \$500-750 per student--
Funding is sought to provide donated suitcases to each school to be used for future classroom use.

Project type: Educational Hands-on Learning;
Renewable Energy

Beneficiaries: Tribal Youth, Schools, Communities,
and Nonprofits

Location: US Northern Great Plains, West Coast and
Southwest regions

PARTNERING ORGANIZATIONS

Trees, Water & People coordinates and facilitates SWET workshops, supplies solar suitcase units, travel stipends, tools, and instructors

We Share Solar manufactures the solar suitcase and develops instructional curriculum detailing suitcase assembly and basic knowledge of electricity

National Indian Youth Leadership Project:

Project Venture works with Tribal schools in the U.S. Southwest to provide hands-on learning to Native Youth

Honor The Earth funds renewable energy education to Tribal Schools in Minnesota and South Dakota

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND SOCIAL CONTEXT

SWET workshops empower, educate & strengthen Tribal youth through a social/emotional learning model. Our program provides students with a springboard hands-on approach into renewable energy principles to overcome economic disparities and support future energy needs within their communities. Furthermore, this increases students' confidence in STEM based coursework and improves problem solving, teamwork, and communication skills.

ANTICIPATED IMPACT

Reduces youth emigration out of Tribal communities in search of economic opportunities.

Harnesses the energy of the sun, which reaffirms culturally significant lifeways of interconnectedness with the sacred and Tribal-specific traditional knowledge.

Encourages Native American youth to pursue education and training in solar energy and STEM-based academic courses of study and lead tribal energy sovereignty initiatives.



STEPS TO A SUCCESSFUL TRAINING

- Identify a group of 8 - 32 Native students or teachers interested in receiving solar energy education.
- Develop materials list, timing of workshop.
- Determine duration of workshop (1 - 5 days).
- Identify opportunities for community engagement, i.e. local solar installations.
- Confirm availability of funding for suitcases and materials required



Trees, Water & People respectfully acknowledges that our office sits on the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Arapaho (hinono'eino' biito'owu') Ute (Núu-agma-tuvu-pu) and Cheyenne (Tsésthó'e).

National Program Director,
James Calabaza
james@treeswaterpeople.org
970-233-2394

 TREES, WATER & PEOPLE
Helping people and the planet