

Pinoleville Solar Port & Renewable Energy Workforce Development



Lead Organization: Pinoleville Pomo Nation

Key Collaborators: GRID Alternatives Bay Area North Coast

More Information: bit.ly/Pinoleville

Sector: Renewable and Resilient Energy

Project Description

For the Pinoleville Pomo Nation — a community of 350 citizens — high utility costs and limited economic opportunity have long been persistent challenges. This project addresses both at once through an innovative dual-purpose initiative: installing a 42KW solar carport system with EV charging stations at the Tribal government complex, reducing utility costs by an estimated 25%, while delivering paid internships and workforce training for Tribal youth and adults. The workforce development component creates paid internships — four in renewable energy and six in traditional Tribal skills, agriculture, and social services — grounded in culturally sensitive decision-making that ensures equitable distribution of benefits throughout the community.

Intended Outcomes

- Complete construction of a solar carport on Pinoleville Tribal government complex.
- Provide workforce development training to ten paid interns.
- Provide four solar interns/trainees with industry-recognized certification.
- Train two interns in traditional Tribal skills, agriculture, and social services.

Progress Update: Challenges & Achievements to Date

Their first solar intern completed their training and received IBT200 certification, and three more will also complete the training by the end of September. Ten workforce development interns also began their training, and eight of these interns started training at job sites of local businesses. One of their cultural interns attended California Basketweaving Association Gathering for 2 days, and another is building a baby basket that will be used by a member of the community. Grid Alternative is working with Pinoleville Pomo Nation on some redesigns for their solar carports, and the solar batteries have already been purchased.



Ways to Engage and Support the Project

- Go to Pinoleville's webpage: bit.ly/Pinoleville
- Follow Pinoleville on Facebook: bit.ly/PPN-Facebook
- Follow Pinoleville on Instagram: bit.ly/PPN-Insta

