Launch of Solar Installation Training Program

In early 2016 GRID Alternatives San Diego won a grant to develop our workforce programming. We often work with volunteers who want to launch a solar career, but are struggling to balance full time work and family duties along with attending GRID installations. Our new ‘Solar Installation Training Program’ means we are now able to offer eligible applicants an hourly wage for 3 months of intensive training, with a view to getting them hired.

Juley Gordon is a Marine veteran who completed GRID’s training program and is now working as a solar installer. “Civilian life can be difficult after the military, but this training was a great experience”, says Gordon. “I feel like I’m making steps toward a brighter future.”

2016 was an exciting year at GRID Alternatives San Diego. In June we launched our first ever paid solar installation training program, with a focus on getting military veterans and at-risk youth jobs in the growing solar industry. These trainees helped install solar for many of the families we assisted in 2016.

**LOCAL IMPACTS**

- **129** Households Served
- **$4 million** Lifetime Savings
- **8,334 tons** Greenhouse Gas Emissions Prevented
- **294** Participants Trained
The Power of Community

We often hear stories of the people we serve becoming solar advocates. Cathlean Ramsey is one of them. She got solar with GRID in November 2016 and has since been encouraging her neighbors to check out GRID.

“My son has solar panels and he kept recommending I look into getting my own,” she said as she watched volunteers hoist her new panels up onto her roof. “These should bring my bills down to basically nothing. They will give me some financial breathing room.”

We’re grateful to be able to serve so many people like Ms. Ramsey, who are true leaders in their communities, and support them as they spread the word and pay it forward to their neighbors, friends and family.