

Case Study: Native American Photovoltaics Navajo Nation, Arizona



Location: Navajo Nation, Arizona
Construction: 1 kW Stand-Alone Kit
Contractors: NAPV
Completion: November, 2001*
Peak Capacity: 1 kW per unit
Funding: Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, US Department of Energy

*project ongoing

Native American Photovoltaics (NAPV), a non-profit organization made possible through support from the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority and the United States Department of Energy, is bringing the benefits of electricity to the largest group of Americans who live without it. Initially established in the Dilkon and Teesto Chapters of the Navajo Nation, NAPV finances, installs, and services PV powers systems for remote residences.

In 1998, TerraSolar was chosen to provide over 20 residential systems for families currently living without electricity. The systems are sized to provide the conveniences of electrical on-grid living including refrigeration, lighting, and communications. These 1kW systems are mounted on a structure supported by recycled utility poles that double as a traditional ramada shade structure. TerraSolar provides all elements of this system including TerraSolar's 40w a-Si PV modules, DC inverter, battery storage system and necessary wiring.

Recently, the project has been extended to include 20 additional residential systems and a larger system for a local school. This project was made possible with support from the Navajo Tribal Utility and the U.S. Department of Energy.

Innovative Energy Solutions

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