



Olympia
Community Solar



**2024
ANNUAL
REPORT**

FOCUSED ON ENERGY EQUITY

The heart of our work is addressing disproportionate impact that energy expenses have on marginalized individuals and communities. Shockingly, approximately one in five households in Washington spends over 10% of their income to these expenses, with low-income households spending three to four times more of their income on energy costs compared to their higher-income neighbors.

We couldn't be prouder of our staff's work in 2023. From energizing our largest solar project at Thurgood Marshall Middle School, managing our third annual solarize campaign, deploying solar on 14 low-income residences, to forging new partnerships with the City of Olympia and Nisqually Tribe. If you want to support our mission we hope you'll reach out and work with us to align with your goals!

Mason Rolph, Executive Director
mason@olysol.org

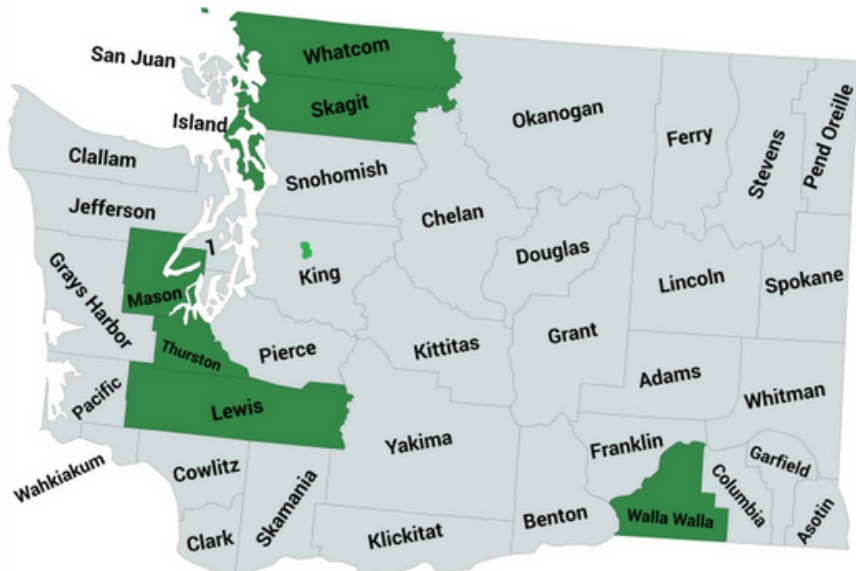
2023 SOLARIZE CAMPAIGN

2023 was a great year for our residential program, Solarize. We expanded the geographic reach of our campaigns while working with new partners to coordinate with local energy programs.

- Motivated **46 homeowners** to install solar at lowered group-purchase rates, a total capacity of **395 KW**.
- Partnered with Skagit Valley Clean Energy Cooperative to **expand Solarize to Skagit County**.
- Worked with City of Olympia to promote the Energize heat pump campaign, resulting in 30 signups.
- Partnered with Sustainable Connections to encourage 23 customers to secure energy audits.

Coming Up in 2024:

We're **expanding Solarize** to Whatcom, Walla Walla, and Island Counties, and the City of Kenmore, with the help of local community partners in each area.



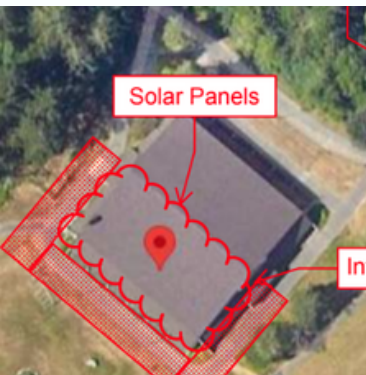
GRANT AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

This year we worked with organizations around the state to provide clean energy grant and project management services, including the successful installation of our latest community solar project! We worked with:



WEST MASON FIRE DISTRICT 16

Secured two grants to fund 36 kW of solar on this rural fire station. The project will reduce the department's energy costs by \$3,400 dollars.



THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE

Assisted a student-led effort that successfully secured funding through the College's Clean Energy Committee. A 94 kW solar installation will be installed this spring on the Recreation Pavilion.



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Secured grant funding for a 159 kW system that will offset 100% of the church's energy. The project's benefits will be dedicated to the Thurston County Food Bank.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF WHATCOM

Secured funding for solar on the Bellingham-based Boys and Girls Club. The solar will reduce the low-income service provider's operating costs for decades to come!



COMMUNITY ROOTS

Secured funding to install solar on this planned tiny-home community in Vancouver WA. The nonprofit sponsored village will house community members experiencing houselessness.



HOMES FIRST

Completed solar installations on 14 housing units across seven buildings. This project was possible thanks to the City of Olympia's community development block grants. We've secured funding for an additional project in 2024.



WINTHROP LIBRARY

Secured funding from the Department of Commerce for the rural Town of Winthrop's public library. The 78 kW of solar will save the town an average of \$15,000 each year.





OLYMPIA LITTLE THEATRE

Secured grant funding for 24 kW of solar. The new array will help the 104 year old Theatre reduce operating costs and keep ticket prices low.



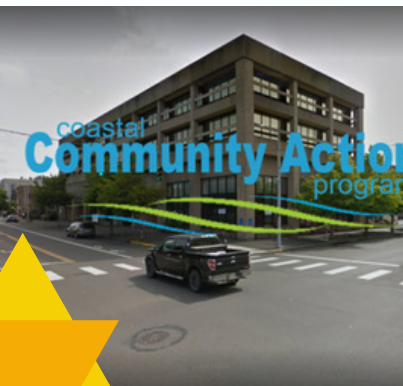
ORTING VETERANS VILLAGE

Developed a project proposal and secured funding to install solar at the second Quixote Communities site. The 119 kW of solar spread across 36 buildings will reduce the village's operating costs by \$20,000 per year.



CITY OF OLYMPIA

Collaborated to secure funding for 26 new EV chargers at multifamily properties. We've finalized a contract to provide the city with clean energy grant and project services for 2024.



COASTAL COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM

Supported an application for a federal grant (pending award) to fund a 3 MW solar project in Westport that will fund low-income energy assistance programs.

The Sunny Awards

FOR EQUITABLE COMMUNITY SOLAR

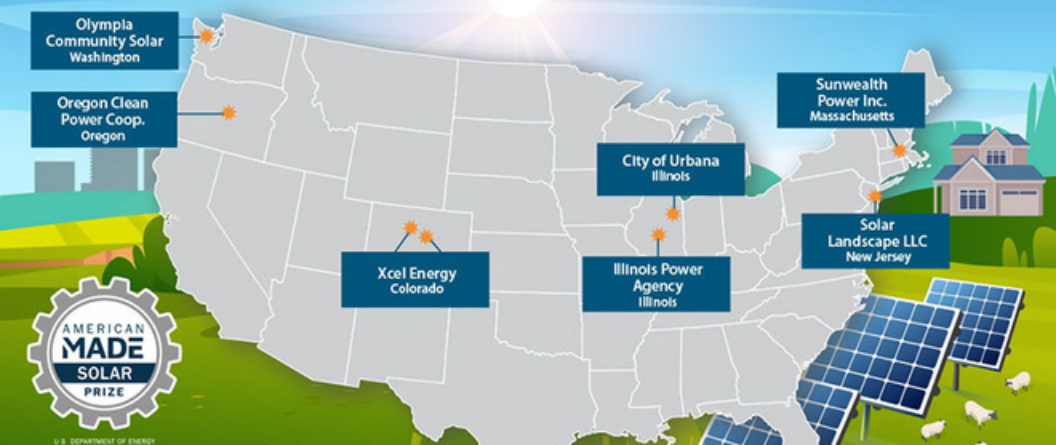


GRAND PRIZE WINNER!

"The American-Made Sunny Awards for Equitable Community Solar (The Sunny Awards) is a prize competition that recognizes community solar projects and programs that employ or develop best practices to increase equitable access to the meaningful benefits of community solar for subscribers and their communities"

This year we received national recognition for our project at **Merritt Manor** in the *2023 Sunny Awards*!

2023 Sunny Awards Finalists





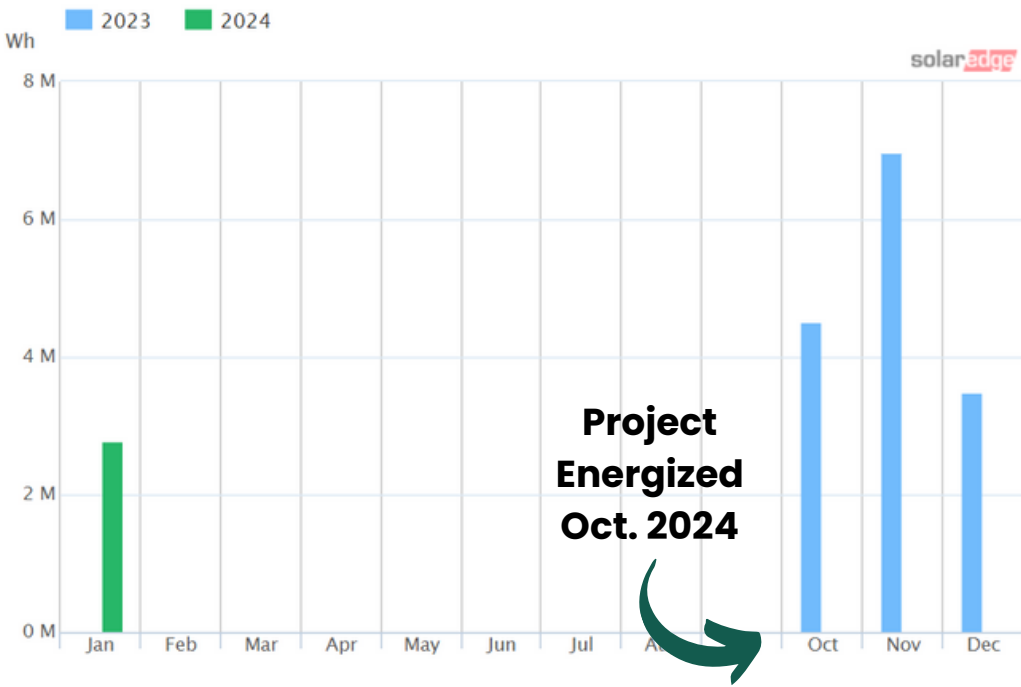
THURGOOD MARSHALL IS UP AND RUNNING!

In partnership with the Olympia School District and Puget Sound Solar we completed installation of our newest community solar project. About 90% of it's benefits are dedicated to local low-income housing provider Homes First.

This was the first project to successfully receive funds from the Community Solar Expansion Program managed by WSU, a funding pool which exists due to legislation which we introduced to the state legislature in 2022!

Thank you to all of our partners, participants, and donors that helped make this project possible!

THURGOOD MARSHALL COMMUNITY SOLAR





HUMMINGBIRD COMMUNITY SOLAR

HUMMINGBIRD IS FLYING!

“We love generating solar-powered electricity to operate the Museum, but we especially love teaching kids that play, and learning can run on sunshine! We want young visitors and their grown-ups to know that solar energy is good for our planet.”

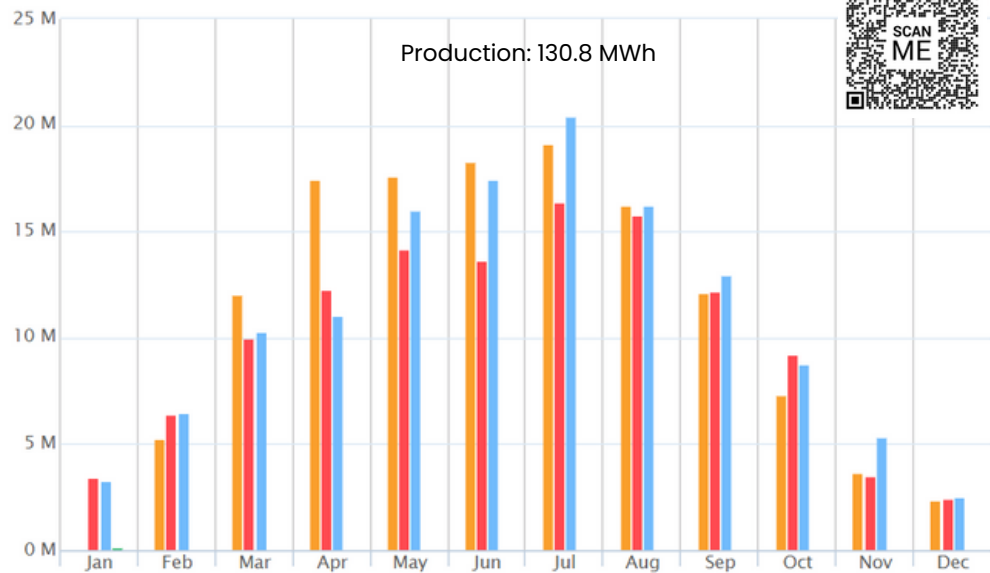
Patty Belmonte, Hands On Children’s Museum CEO

Financial Information

2023 Electricity Revenue:	<u>\$15,301</u>
Expenses	<u>\$3,288</u>
Net Income:	\$11,362.60
Number of Solar Units:	710
Revenue Per Solar Unit:	\$16.00



Wh 2021 2022 2023 2024



The Project's Environmental Impact



207,000 Miles not driven

or



58,000 Pounds of Coal not burned

or



114,000 Pounds of CO2 prevented

Calculated using PSE Green Power Calculator



SUNFLOWER PROJECT BLOOMS!

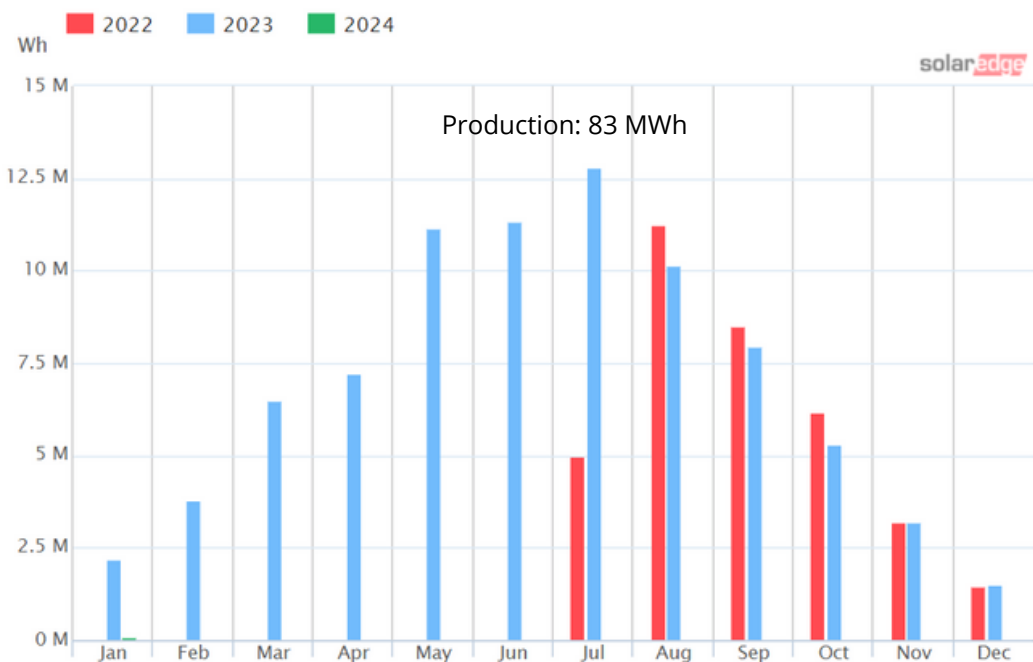
“This August, the Sunflower Community Solar generated 155% of the Market’s energy needs for the month! We have consistently banked energy credits to be used later in the winter when sunshine is sparse, and we are paying minimal amounts to PSE each month. Based on the current success of the project, our annual utility costs will decrease by about 80% after the panels have been donated to the Market.”

Nora Hantula, Assistant Manager, The Olympia Farmers Market

Financial Information

Gross Electricity Revenue:	<u>\$9,746</u>
Withholding	<u>\$2,034</u>
Net Income:	\$7,712
Number of Solar Units:	476
Revenue Per Solar Unit:	\$12.00

SUNFLOWER COMMUNITY SOLAR



The Projects' Environmental Impact



131,400 Miles not driven

or



36,800 Pounds of Coal not burned

or



72,500 Pounds of CO2 prevented

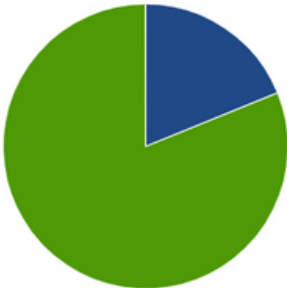
Calculated using PSE Green Power Calculator

EMISSIONS INVENTORY WITH THE NISQUALLY TRIBE



We've partnered with the Nisqually Tribe to create a Greenhouse Gas Inventory that will serve as a baseline for decarbonization efforts across the Tribe's building sector. The inventory will inform a detailed emissions mitigation plan.

We'll use the inventory and mitigation plan to create a grant application to fund energy efficiency and clean energy projects across the reservation.



● Residential Energy ● Commercial Energy



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THANK YOU SPONSORS!

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Kyle Nicholas
Mary Beth Harrington
Zachery Miller
Lynne Bannerman
Kathryn Kasimor

LOOKING AHEAD

PLANS FOR 2024

We accomplished a lot in 2023, and helped manage and implement a variety of solar projects that will benefit many including low-income and other disadvantaged communities. In 2024, we plan to continue pushing to share the benefits of solar with more individuals and communities.

We're expanding Solarize, advocating for policy, deepening connections with partners such as Olympia and the Nisqually Tribe, and are pursuing new projects like work with the Coastal Community Action Program and Tacoma Community House.

The year ahead looks more exciting than ever, and we hope you'll join us for the journey.

2024 Board of Directors

BOARD MEMBERS

Katrina Taylor



Kyle Nicholas



Adam Powers



Connor Tibke



Adam Harrison



STAFF

Executive Director
Mason Rolph



Program Director
Ben Silesky



Grants Manager
Zachery Miller



Intern
Keira Jensen



THANK YOU!

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**Merritt Manor, the project that earned
a Sunny Award Grand Prize for 2023!**

