

An aerial photograph of a village, likely Tyonek, showing a river winding through a forested area with several buildings and a dirt road. The image is partially obscured by a white, torn-paper-like border on the right side.

Tribal Community Solar for the Native Village of Tyonek

Obstacle: The high cost of electricity is burdensome on tribal citizens, where monthly electricity bills can be hundreds or thousands of dollars. LMI households in a historically disadvantaged community like Tyonek cannot afford to install residential solar. Local electrical systems are not resilient against fuel shortages and power outages. There is a shortage of skilled labor that can install renewable energy systems. The village does not own the means of power production.

Goal: Lower the exorbitant cost of electricity. Provide access to renewable energy to LMI households. Restore the local energy economy by diversifying the grid. Train the local workforce in renewable energy systems. Strengthen energy democracy by granting the community ownership over power-producing assets.

Solution: Install 3 community solar arrays, totaling 1.62 MW, in Tyonek and in Anchorage.