

**Title:** Clean Energy for Rural Nevada (CERN)

**Competitor name:** Nevada Clean Energy Fund (NCEF)

**Organization:** Nevada Clean Energy Fund, [info@nevadacef.org](mailto:info@nevadacef.org), 775-737-0975, 1217 Lander Street, Reno, NV 89509-0001

**Location of primary benefits:**

Clean Energy for Rural Nevada (CERN) has the potential to benefit rural communities and Tribal territories across the entire state of Nevada. The program's initial target area is the town of Battle Mountain in Lander County, NV 89820-0001. Battle Mountain has a population of 3,705 according to the US Census and is the seat of Lander County, which is designated as 100% rural by the US Census. However, Phase Two activities will be conducted across a multitude of Nevada's rural census designated places and Tribal territories, as explained further in our Project Plan document.

**Short description of proposed plan, activities, and use of the prize funds:** The Nevada Clean Energy Fund (NCEF) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to support a thriving, affordable, and accessible clean energy economy by providing financial and technical resources to Nevadans. The goal of this project is to develop and implement the Clean Energy for Rural Nevada (CERN) program, which offers rural school districts, electric cooperatives, Tribes, and communities technical assistance and affordable financing to deploy clean energy projects. The CERN program will enable rural and remote areas to overcome technical and financial constraints to accessing clean energy-related grants, rebates, and tax incentives.

**Link to the 3-minute, online video pitch:** <https://youtu.be/vwSmK81rso8>

**Project members:**

- **Team Lead:** Kirsten Stasio, CEO, Nevada Clean Energy Fund. Kirsten has over 10 years of clean energy investment, finance, and policy experience that will be instrumental in originating investments and leveraging private capital.
- **Team Member 2:** Greg Zegas, Senior Manager, Investments, Nevada Clean Energy Fund. Greg has a background in clean energy consulting and project development and helped scale green lending programs for low-income households in Mongolia.

**Other partners:**

- **NCEF Board of Directors:** Director of the Nevada Governor's Office of Energy; the Executive Director of the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development; the Administrator of the Nevada Real Estate Division; the Commissioner of Nevada's Financial Institutions Division; and members nominated by local governments and labor and contractor groups.
- **NCEF Advisory Council:** leaders from the energy investment sector, community lending, affordable housing, and NV Energy (Nevada's largest electric utility).