

Energizing Rural Communities Prize

The Appalachia Chispa Partnership Plan

By Claudia Matthews, Yellow Spring WV.



Team Name: Puesta Del Sol Farm

The overall mission of the Puesta Del Sol Farm is to implement a business plan to allow for sustainability with energy and food production while maintaining the environment and its beauty. This aligns well with the DOE goal for rural and remote energy production.

Regarding energy, the farm is one of the country's few net-zero farms and event venues. A net-zero environment was achieved by incorporating a geothermal system with solar infrastructure. The goal of the Appalachia Chispa submitted project and activity is to build on the current net-zero state and provide a living, breathing, operational proof-of-concept farm utilizing renewable energy solutions that improve the farms business, maintain a net-zero energy environment, and generate a power supply to operate for the good of the community. With partner's help, the vision is to be the spark (Chispa) in the region for a much larger electrification and energy management impact. Our neighbors, fellow rural community members, need to see solutions in action prior to making the financial commitment on their respective farms. Our project will be that solution in motion for them to see first-hand.

Video Pitch: <https://youtu.be/gT8dpl9k814>

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Technical Partners

Mountainview Solar – Commitment Letter Submitted; Berq RNG – Commitment Letter Submitted

Non-profits

West Virginians for Energy Freedom; Solar United Neighbors; West Virginia Environmental Council West Virginia Farm Bureau; West Virginia Community Educational Outreach Service

Educational Institutions

Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College; Blue Ridge and Technical College; Shepherd University; Davis College; West Virginia State University

Labor Unions

Local Union 2035 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; United Association Journeyman Plumbers and Steamfitters

Government Entities

Hampshire County (WV) Development Authority; Hampshire County (WV) Planning Office
Hampshire County (WV) Convention and Visitors Economic Development Bureau; West Virginia; Department of Agriculture; West Virginia State Delegates