

Project Title: Advancing Energy Justice in the Tohono O'odham Community

Team: Sonoran O'odham Solar Equity Team

Partnerships

Project Overview

- This project leverages the combined strengths of Solar Roadways, the Native American Advancement Foundation (NAAF), and Resilience Developers, ensuring a comprehensive, community-centered approach to achieving energy justice for the Tohono O'odham community.

- Solar Roadways has developed innovative Solar Road Panels that integrate clean energy generation into practical applications such as roads and parking lots.
- Our project aims to implement this resilient microgrid system at the NAAF center in the Tohono O'odham Reservation, a key resource for a community dealing with economic hardship and food insecurity.
- This initiative will ultimately provide the NAAF center with a reliable, sustainable, and efficient energy source, reducing dependence on traditional power grids.



Key Features

Impact

- Solar Road Panels:** Generate clean energy from walking and driving surfaces, designed with LEDs for education and heating elements for snow/ice prevention.
- Energy Independence:** Our solution will enable the Tohono O'odham community to control their energy future, paving the way for greater energy security and resilience.
- Resilient Infrastructure:** By embedding solar panels in the ground, we safeguard the system against monsoon winds and flooding, common challenges in the Tohono O'odham reservation.

- Immediate benefits upon a completed project will include reliable power for the NAAF center, contributing to improved food security and quality of life in the community.
- Long-term, the project seeks to serve as a model for other rural and indigenous communities, demonstrating the viability of sustainable infrastructure initiatives for energy justice.
- The project will create conversations, destinations, and centers of community pride and engagement, inspiring a broader movement toward energy independence and sustainability.