

## Proposal to Advance Tribal Energy Sovereignty

Spark Northwest is pleased to submit our proposal for Energizing Rural Communities Prize funding from the Department of Energy to build an important, and often overlooked, foundational step to Indigenous energy planning – developing local skills and knowledge so that the community can direct its own transition.

[Our video Introduction of our Advancing Tribal Energy Sovereignty proposal may be found at this link.](#)

Our Advancing Tribal Energy Sovereignty program will provide innovative, hands-on solar education and training to two small, rural Tribal Nations in the Pacific Northwest. Focus will be on experiential learning to foster confidence and growth for people for whom renewable energy has been out of reach. Our goal is to identify and mentor future energy champions, so that they will be ready to lead the next phase of developing fundable clean energy projects, with Spark Northwest providing resources and support as needed.

Veena Prasad and Eriq Acosta from **Spark Northwest** will lead this effort. Veena Prasad leads our programs team. She has engineering project management experience and founded a successful social enterprise to empower refugees to enter the culinary industry. Eriq Acosta is our Tribal Energy Program Project Manager and is a descendant of the Indigenous Peoples of North America (Mexican (Spanish and Indigenous), Dine' and Pueblo roots) whose education and life has spanned throughout the United States.

Spark Northwest will partner with Remote Energy on this project. **Remote Energy** provides a pathway, methodology, and support network for developing the technical capacity of Tribal solar installers and instructors. We will be working directly with Remote Energy co-founder, Chris Brooks. We have received letters of support from **The Nooksack Indian Tribe** and **The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe**. Our proposal includes important information about these two rural, Tribal communities who will be the primary beneficiaries of this proposal.

### Spark Northwest

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# Spark Northwest

Creating clean energy communities

Locations of Primary Benefits:

**Nooksack Indian Tribe**

Deming, WA 98244

Contact: Ross Cline Jr

[Rcline@nooksack-nsn.gov](mailto:Rcline@nooksack-nsn.gov)

**The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe**

Kingston, WA 98346

Contact: Tamara Gage

[tgage@pgst.nsn.us](mailto:tgage@pgst.nsn.us)

Partner:

**Remote Energy**

Tacoma, WA

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