



Powering Community Solutions with Solar

Competitor:

Organization: GRID Alternatives

Location: 4845 N. Oakland St. | Denver, CO 80239

Respondent: Daniel Pontón

Respondent's email: dponton@gridalternatives.org

Organization web link: <https://gridalternatives.org/>

Location of primary benefits

Projects with San Miguel Power Association (SMPA)

Zip codes: 81432-9359, 81432-8726, 81332-5005, 81432-9359

Name of town: Ridgway, CO and Rico, CO

Description: GRID is working with San Miguel Power Association on technical assistance for four potential community solar projects, including identifying viable sites for the projects, determining the feasibility of these projects, providing PV Syst, writing a pro forma report, and doing a permitting analysis for the projects. GRID will enlist local and licensed 3rd-Party Engineering firms to perform site engineering services and draw up conceptual designs for the projects. The community solar projects will ultimately serve the communities of Ridgway and Rico in Colorado, which have populations of 1,207 and 347 respectively. The prize funds will allow GRID to continue to provide technical assistance to this project.

Project with Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA)/Thistle Whistle Farms

Zip codes: 81419-4705

Name of town: Hotchkiss, CO

Description: GRID is working with Thistle Whistle Farms and DMEA among other collaborators on planning out a 2-acre, grid-tied, high-efficiency agrivoltaic system with a cooperative ownership structure. The site on which the project is being planned is intensively farmed, so the project will be an agrivoltaic venture to maintain and facilitate the benefits of the farm while providing clean energy to the local community. GRID is involved in the system design and technical assistance aspects of the project, which is in the planning phase. The prize funds will allow GRID to continue supporting this project. The project will be located in Hotchkiss, CO, which has a population of 906.

Link to 3-minute video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYjDKYbBw-E>



Project members:

Alex Hunt, Senior Commercial Project Manager

Alex will serve as Project Development and Construction Manager. Alex has 6 years of experience of managing the development and construction of commercial and utility solar projects on a national footprint.

Joel Blaine, Director of Business and Project Development

Joel leads GRID's impact investment and financing activities, including leading GRID's Energy Resilience Fund. This Low-to-Moderate Income dedicated clean energy loan fund raises philanthropic capital and offers lower cost, more inclusive debt to mission aligned clean energy projects. Joel has over a decade of experience in clean energy development, including working at the US department of Energy managing grants to state and local communities to implement clean energy projects.

Daniel Pontón Aronoff, Community Solar Policy & Program Manager

Daniel will support project development. He has developed a workforce grant for GRID and is responsible for tracking, analyzing, and participating in community solar policy and its implementation around the country. He has more than 5 years of experience in project development, having worked with community-based organizations in New Jersey and on government-funded, community projects in Ecuador.

Victor Pazmino, Sr. Commercial Solar Development Engineer

Vic leads the development engineering side of Community Solar projects for GRID. Vic has experience in the solar energy industry since 2007 working on larger projects both in the US and internationally.

Sarah Salem, Director of Community Engagement & Partnerships

Sarah will be supporting client acquisition and community-based organization partnerships. Sarah focuses on community and tenant care for both community solar and multifamily affordable housing solar projects. She currently leads tenant education and Community Based Organization partnerships across GRID. She oversees strategy for tenant education and CBO partnership for programs like the Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing (SOMAH) Program, a ten-year clean energy program overseen by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), and Access Clean California.

Katie Kavanaugh, Outreach Manager, Community Solar

Katie will be leading client acquisition and management and supporting community-based partnerships. Katie focuses on community and tenant care for community solar projects. She currently supports tenant education and Community Based Organization partnerships for the community solar team. She oversees strategy for client acquisition and subscriber management



for GRID's community solar portfolio. Katie has 3 years of experience supporting community solar client acquisition and providing asset management services to community solar project owners.

Other partners:

For the Thistle Whistle Farms/DMEA project, we are collaborating with:

- Solar Energy International (SEI)
- Colorado Food & Farm Alliance (COFFA)
- Citizens for a Healthy Community (CHC)
- Karen Ortiz, former Board Chair, Western Slope Conservation Center (WSCC)
- Valley Organic Growers Association (VOGA)
- Colorado State University Extension
- Thistle Whistle Farm
- Colorado State University-Agricultural Experiment Station
- Empowered Energy Systems