

Community Energy Innovation Prize Submission

Title: *Accelerating Puerto Rico's Solar Workforce*

Team name: *Solar Training Accelerators*

Description: Building on Empowered by Light's (EBL) work in Puerto Rico, including 23 solar projects since Hurricane Maria (2017), EBL is leading an effort to help meet the increased demand for skilled labor in the renewable energy industry by providing solar energy workforce training. As part of this effort, trainees will have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience installing solar for a community center in a rural and low-income area of Puerto Rico building greater resiliency for the community and surrounding area.

Video: <https://youtu.be/SKzFwh9Fp8k>

Key project members/partners: (names, contacts, links to professional online profiles).
Empowered by Light - [Moira Hanes](#), [Cámilie Rivera-Dueño](#), [Edgar Oscar Ruiz](#)
Solar Libre - [Walter Rodríguez Meyer](#)

Location of benefiting community: Cubuy, Naguabo, Puerto Rico

Competitor's city and state. San Juan, Puerto Rico

Goals:

- Increased renewable energy workforce capacity through training opportunities and the recruitment of job trainees from the local community, universities, renewable energy-focused organizations, and associations including people from diverse backgrounds and those with some of the highest barriers to entry for career pathways (e.g., formerly-incarcerated individuals).
- Creation and implementation of a clean energy project in partnership with community members, local organizations and local government that provides reliable power to a community center not connected to the island's grid.
- Increased resiliency for a community located in the eastern side of Puerto Rico which is in the path of most hurricanes and tropical storms affecting the island.

Prize track: Clean Energy Ecosystem Track