

RE-volv 10 Year Impact Report

2011-2021



Shining a Light on the First 10 Years



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Letter From the Executive Director

Ten years ago, after many lengthy discussions with close friends about an idea to help spread solar at the community level, on February 4th 2011, we filed RE-volv’s Articles of Incorporation. Our mission: to “empower people and communities to invest collectively in renewable energy.”

The climate justice movement was out in the streets making our voices heard. But we were done waiting for elected officials to take action. We wanted people to have the ability to go beyond advocating for the just clean energy transition and start building it in our communities, creating tangible benefits for the least fortunate, and to begin to change the cultural narrative around climate change.

Ten years later, I’m proud to say that our impact has been real - not only for the climate, but in improving people’s daily lives. We are playing an important role in addressing climate change and building an equitable clean energy future, community by community.

In this report you’ll read about the impacts we’ve had including helping 46 amazing nonprofits go solar in 12 states whose missions vary from poverty alleviation to affordable housing, from veterans’ halls to youth centers, from job training, to those that offer people

a place to pray, to learn, or grow their own food.

Our mission to invest collectively in renewable energy has successfully deployed \$10.3 million to date, resulting in 3.3 megawatts of solar capacity, creating nearly \$19 million of lifetime savings for these amazing nonprofits, with over 50,000 people directly benefiting from clean energy in their community. And honestly, if you ask anyone on the RE-volv team, they’d tell you we’re just getting started.

This is an exciting time for the organization. The RE-volv Board of Directors, staff, and I, are now undergoing the process of revising our mission to guide us for the next ten years. In doing so we will solidify and quantify our commitment not just to the planet, but to the people on it. Not just to create a more sustainable world, but a more equitable one. We know that by taking back our power in our communities and on our rooftops we can create real wealth, real opportunity, and real benefits for the least fortunate among us, the marginalized, disenfranchised, in front-line communities, and that by doing so we can create real change. Not just to alleviate climate change risks. But to alleviate the poverty, inequality, and injustice that have plagued us throughout our past and still haunt us today.

No one accomplishes anything challenging by themselves. From stumbling our way through our first crowdfunding campaigns on Indiegogo, to building our own crowdfunding platform, to creating our Solar Ambassador Fellowship program to train college students across the country, to structuring multi-million dollar tax equity partnerships - I credit the success of our journey so far to the passion, creativity, and commitment of all the RE-volv staff, board members, fellows, volunteers, and supporters who have made this impact possible. I hope all of you who have supported RE-volv over the years feel proud of your role in helping to create real change.

RE-volv is going through an exciting, transformative moment. With a proven model, and more demand for our services than ever, we’re now seeking to raise additional tens of millions of dollars of impact investments to help us continue deploying solar as fast as we can in the communities that need it most.

When you hear the latest news about climate change being worse than scientists thought, or learn about a speed bump on our road to 100% renewable energy, don’t fret. Just remember that together, we can figure this out. We really can. And that when we apply our creativity to these problems collectively, we’ll not only

RE-volv’s first solar installation: Shawl-Anderson Dance Center, Berkeley, CA, May 2013



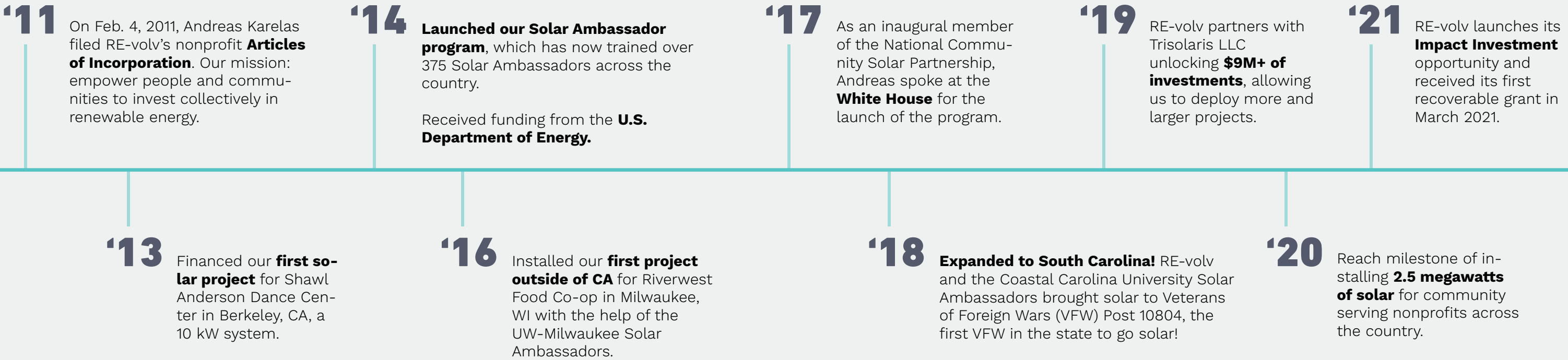
solve climate change and create a prosperous clean energy future for ourselves and future generations, but we’ll be able to do so in a way that creates equity, equality, and justice for everyone. Pretty exciting, huh?

Thanks for all the support over these incredible ten years. We look forward to continuing to work with you over the next ten and beyond.

Andreas Karelak
Founder and Executive Director, RE-volv

10 Years of Impact in Review

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Building Community Through Solar

At RE-volv, we believe that everyone should have the ability to benefit from and help accelerate the just transition to clean energy. So, we’ve created new ways for people to take action, get involved, spearhead local solar projects, and raise awareness about the benefits of solar, in their communities and beyond. RE-volv empowers people across the country to bring solar energy to nonprofits in their community, and by doing so help achieve our vision of a more equitable, sustainable world, where everyone is thriving in healthy and prosperous communities powered by clean energy.

About RE-volv

Founded in 2011, RE-volv is a San Francisco based 501(c)(3) nonprofit that helps fellow nonprofits go solar. Over the last ten years, we have brought solar to 46 nonprofits in 12 states, for a total installed capacity of 3.3 megawatts. That’s over \$10 million invested in solar energy projects that were previously unable to get financed, and nearly \$20 million of electricity bill savings for these incredible community-based nonprofit organizations.

We provide solar energy financing to nonprofits serving LMI (Low-to-Moderate-Income), BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People Of Color), disadvantaged, and frontline communities across the country, while raising awareness about the benefits of solar. We also train the next generation of clean energy leaders through our Solar Ambassador program, where we give volunteers the skills and tools necessary to spearhead local solar projects for nonprofits they care about.



Left: Children play at Harbor House in Oakland where solar is visible from the playground. Below: Community members learn about solar during Sweet Water Foundation’s installation, Chicago.

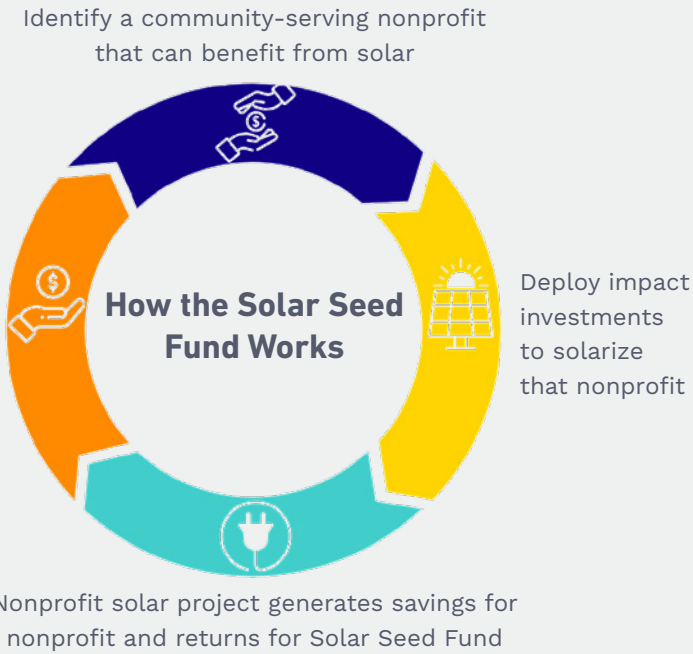


Solar Seed Fund

Nonprofits face many barriers to going solar. RE-volv helps nonprofits go solar for \$0 down through a 20-year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) or Solar Lease. When nonprofits go solar with RE-volv, they save 15% or more on their electricity costs, which they can invest back into their mission.

Their solar payments are continuously reinvested into additional nonprofit solar projects, creating a first-of-its-kind revolving fund for solar energy. We call it the Solar Seed Fund.

RE-volv reinvests returns in the next nonprofit solar project



Clockwise from top left: Solar installation at Harbor House. Solar installation at Unity Gardens. Solar installation for Faith Baptist. Solar ribbon cutting event at Unity Gardens.

Our Theory of Change

To create a just transition to a carbon-free economy, we need to deploy massive amounts of capital into equitable clean energy and climate solutions. This will most effectively be accomplished through policy changes at the local, state, and national levels. In order to achieve such sweeping policy change, we need wholehearted public support. That means we need to engage the public in ways that make clean energy personally meaningful and relevant in peoples’ lives. While studies show that Americans generally like renewable energy, for most, it remains abstract. To change that, we need clean energy to reach people where they are - in their communities. This could be at their children’s school, where they worship, the food kitchen where they volunteer, or the health clinics or community centers they pass by every day.

Simultaneously, it is critical to ensure just and fair access to the myriad of benefits from the burgeoning renewable energy economy. [According to a 2019 report](#) published by Tufts University and the University of California–Berkeley, black and Hispanic majority census tracts show on average significantly less rooftop PV installed. But there is at least one crucial way to address this disparity. According to

the report, “PV installations often result in a feedback loop: When a few residents in a community get solar, known as ‘seed’ customers, it compels others to join. Communities without those first-mover customers show delayed solar adoption.” And, “when seeding does occur in communities of color, deployment ‘significantly increases’ compared to other racial or ethnic groups.”

RE-volv prioritizes bringing solar projects to BIPOC, low-income, and front-line communities. We need to build and highlight these projects where the solar industry currently does not, and we need to amplify stories of solar benefiting people who are largely left out of the clean energy revolution to truly change the cultural narrative around clean energy and climate justice.

With each nonprofit solar project we build, especially in places where solar is less common, and less accessible, **we are demonstrating what’s possible when people work together for change**, and we’re demonstrating that equitable climate solutions like clean energy are here, already providing tangible benefits to those that need them most.

10 Years of Impact



Solar installation for Unity Gardens, an affordable housing community in Berkeley, CA.

46 SOLAR Projects
Installed to Date
Benefiting 51,500
community members

3.3 MEGAWATTS
of Solar Deployed

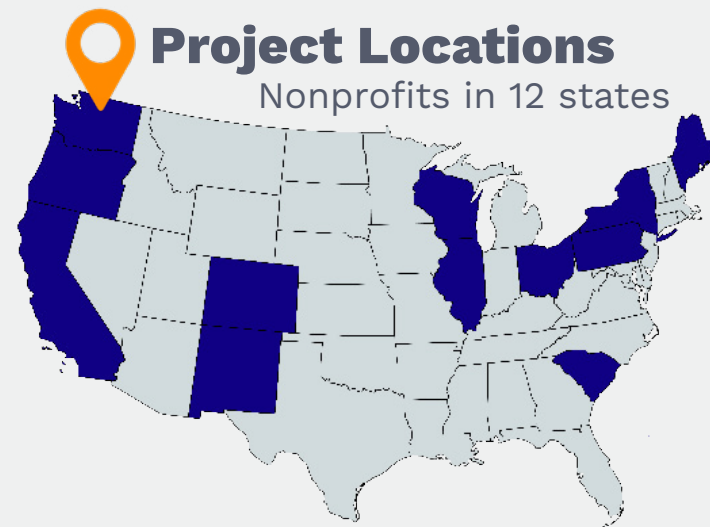
\$10.3 Million
invested
in solar projects



equal to
\$18.7 Million
of lifetime electricity
savings for nonprofits



Money that's
REINVESTED
back into the
NONPROFIT'S
MISSION



Solar installation for Sweet Water Foundation, a community development organization located in Chicago, IL.



Our Commitment to Racial & Social Justice

BIPOC communities, low-income communities, and other disadvantaged communities have not only bore the historic brunt of the fossil fuel industry, face the worst impacts of climate change, but also currently benefit the least from climate solutions like clean energy. RE-volv is one of many climate justice organizations working to change that.

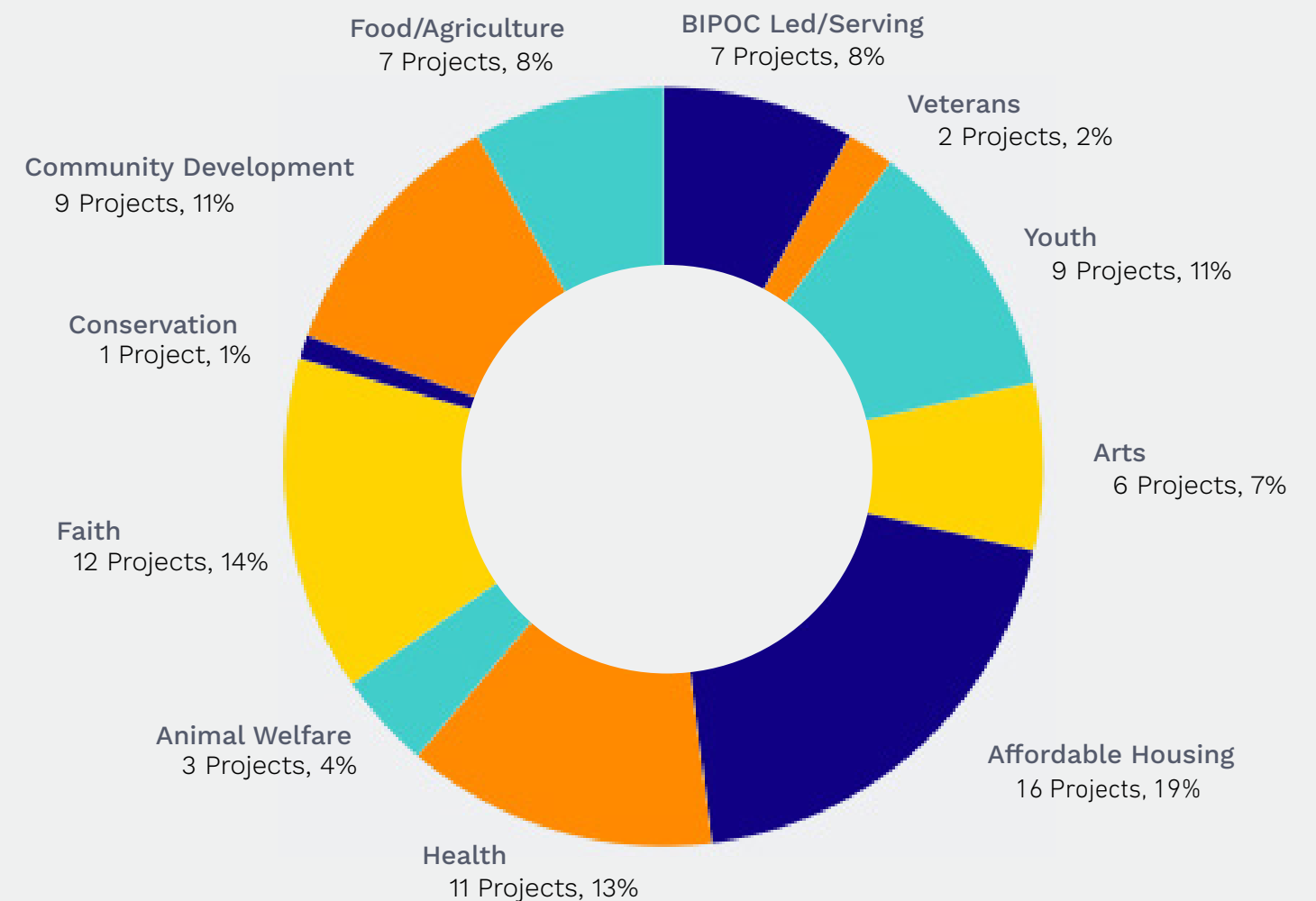
Our mission is to make solar energy solutions accessible to everyone - especially to those that need them most. With each nonprofit we help go solar, we are accelerating the just transition to clean energy - reducing carbon emissions, creating jobs, and lowering electricity bills, so that nonprofits can put their resources where they belong - serving the community.

NAACP's Equitable Solar Policy Principles

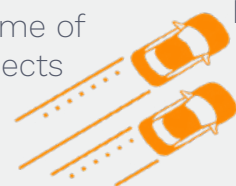
RE-volv is honored to be a member of the NAACP's Solar Equity Initiative, a coalition of climate and energy justice organizations working to increase solar installations in communities of color and connect these communities to skills training for solar jobs, supported by strengthened solar equity policies. We have adopted the [NAACP's Equitable Solar Policy Principles](#) that this coalition has formulated.

Project Areas in Focus

RE-volv provides solar financing to community-serving nonprofits working in 11 impact areas currently that provide valuable services to the communities they serve.



91,930 TONS
of CO₂ AVOIDED
over the lifetime of
the solar projects



EQUAL TO
203M
miles not
driven by car

Affordable Housing

Villa del Arroyo - Low Income Housing Community

Our biggest solar system to date is a 615 kW system for [Villa del Arroyo](#) in Moorpark, CA. Villa del Arroyo is a housing community for low-income families that provides community programs to their residents, including after school homework clubs for students and English as a Second Language classes.

Villa del Arroyo is a part of Augusta Communities, a nonprofit that manages low-income housing communities. We also brought solar to [Ha-cienda](#), [Villa Montclair](#), and [Monterey Manor](#) which are all low-income housing communities in California managed by Augusta.

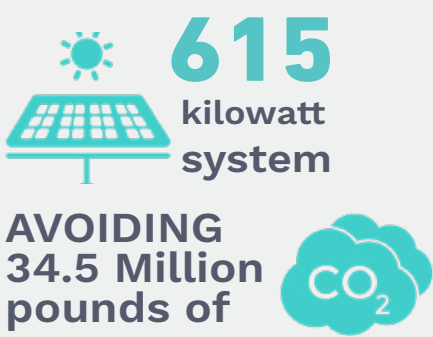


Carport solar array at Niles East, an affordable housing community located in Bakersfield, CA.

Below: Solar installation at Transitions, a nonprofit working to end homelessness and poverty for women and children in Spokane, WA. Photo Credit: Gonzaga University.



Solar Power for Villa del Arroyo



Health

Collins Lake Autism Center

[Collins Lake Autism Center](#) provides adults with Autism and developmental disabilities with outdoor recreation opportunities, a remote learning center, and other social programs. Collins Lake also provides residential supported living, community support groups, and integrated employment services.

Glen Carlberg, Executive Director of Collins Lake says, “We are fortunate to be the managers of an extraordinary property and we take our stewardship role seriously. Going solar is an important part of assuring future generations will benefit from our efforts.”

Members of Collins Lake Autism Center participating in outdoor activities on the property.



Sustainable Agriculture & Access to Healthy Food

Sweet Water Foundation

[Sweet Water Foundation](#) in Chicago, IL utilizes a blend of urban agriculture, art, and education to transform vacant spaces and abandoned buildings into economically and ecologically productive and sustainable community assets that produce engaged youth, art, locally grown food, and affordable housing.

The Sweet Water Foundation has turned four city blocks in Chicago into safe and healthy places where the community can gather, grow nutritious food, and learn together. The Sweet Water Foundation went solar with RE-volv in 2019 through a 3 kW system that will avoid 144,300 pounds of CO₂ emissions.



Left: Community members harvesting vegetables at Sweet Water Foundation. Above: Community garden and the community Think-Do House at Sweet Water Foundation.

Communities of Faith

Faith Baptist Church

In addition to being a house of worship for the East Oakland community, [Faith Baptist Church](#) plays an integral role in serving the community through their Food Giving Program. Every year Faith Baptist Church volunteers hand out 100 tons of food to 3,600 people in need.

The solar system installed in 2018 has reduced Faith Baptist’s electricity bill by approximately 30%. Through these savings, Faith Baptist is able to provide more food and essential items to families in need.

Solar for Faith Baptist Church



Solar installation for Hope United in South San Francisco, CA.

The Arts

The Village of Arts & Humanities

The [Village of Arts & Humanities](#) located in North Philadelphia went solar with RE-volv in 2020 with the help of the Solar Ambassadors at Swarthmore College. The Village of Arts & Humanities mission is to “amplify the voices and aspirations of our community by providing arts-based opportunities for self-expression and personal success that engage youth and their families, revitalize physical space, and preserve black heritage.”

La Peña Cultural Center

[La Peña Cultural Center](#) went solar in 2021. La Peña hosts over 100 events per year including concerts, community gatherings, and art exhibits and offers children and adults music and performance classes for the Latinx community in the Bay Area.

Youth

Harbor House - After School Program

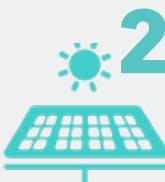
[Harbor House](#) offers after-school tutoring and enrichment, leadership development, food and clothing distribution, English as a Second Language classes, and economic development opportunities for women and youth in Oakland, CA.

Harbor House’s solar installation was funded through the generous support of our crowdfunding donors, who raised \$26,620 to help Harbor House go solar. The solar system is 14 kW and allowed Harbor House to save 39% on their electric bill in the first year and over \$100,000 over the life of the system. Harbor House’s solar system is visible from the property’s playground, allowing students to see and learn about solar.



Right: Harbor House staff member provides after-school homework assistance to students. Above: Harbor House staff member reads books to children in the after-school enrichment classes.

Solar for La Peña

 **28** kilowatt system installed in 2021

REDUCING 1.5M  CO₂

pounds of CO₂ emissions & saving La Peña

\$171,00 over the course of the system’s lifetime

Veterans

Volts for Vets

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFWs) Posts provide foreign combat veterans with food, clothing, and other services as well as a place for community. RE-volv is proud to have helped the first and second VFWs in South Carolina go solar with the help of the Coastal Carolina University Solar Ambassadors. The pioneer was, [VFW Post 10804](#). The following year [VFW Post 10420](#) went solar as well.

Cat Sweeney, a Coastal Carolina Solar Ambassador Alum who helped bring solar to VFW Post 10804 says, “After starting talks with the VFW post we found out that they had already been working with their utility to try to lower their electricity bills. They all did their research and made sure we knew what we were talking about and it was wonderful working with all of them, and it was great to finish a project that had so much impact.”



Clockwise from top right: Prof. Pamela Martin, faculty advisor of Coastal Carolina University Solar Ambassadors with two VFW Post 10804 members. Solar array for VFW Post 10804. RE-volv Team, Swarthmore College Solar Ambassadors, and Solar States celebrates The Village of Arts & Humanities Solar ribbon cutting. Art installation at The Village of Arts & Humanities.

Solar Ambassador Fellowship

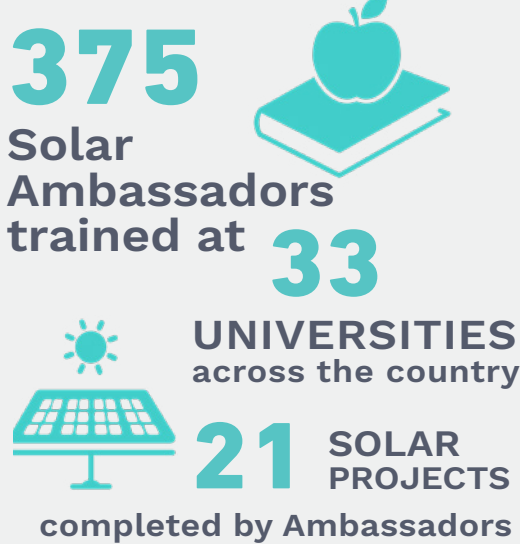
RE-volv’s [Solar Ambassador Fellowship](#) program trains the next generation of clean energy leaders across the country. **The Fellowship gives college students the opportunity to spearhead a solar project in their community.**

In the program students learn about solar energy, finance, and policy, bring solar to a local nonprofit, and lead a campaign to educate the community about the importance of renewable energy.

Since the program launched in 2014, we have trained 375 Ambassadors at more than 30 universities from South Carolina to Ohio, Pennsylvania to Mississippi, and California to Washington D.C.

Ambassadors do not need to be college students, however. We have had Ambassadors of all ages. Anyone can volunteer and be trained to spearhead a solar project in their community. Help us build a solar project for a nonprofit in your community today!

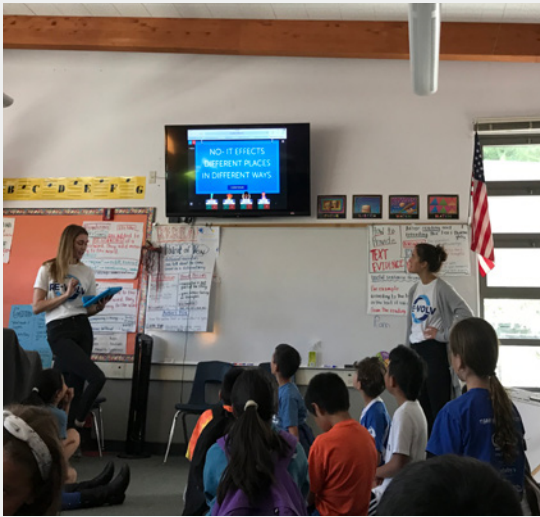
BY THE NUMBERS



Participating Universities



Coastal Carolina Solar Ambassadors ask students why they support solar.



UCSB Solar Ambassadors educate an elementary school class about solar.



Solar Ambassadors in the Bay Area provide solar education to the community.

What Our Ambassadors are Saying

Danielle Kvadas, a Solar Ambassador Project Lead and Alum from Coastal Carolina University says, “Being a Solar Ambassador gives me a sense of leadership that is important when advancing my career. I have learned accountability, the push to complete a project from start to finish and a better grasp on handling any challenges thrown my way.”

Kasey Kokka, a Solar Ambassador from California State University, Fresno says, "Proper organization and persistence were the main features I developed in the program. I felt these directly contributed to my success as a young professional entering the renewable energy industry, where I worked as a sales engineer for SolarCity (now Tesla)."

Kiara Smith, an Alum and Team Lead at Dickinson College says, "I have become much more aware about clean energy and feel that I can be an advocate at the state level for legislation."

University of Dayton Team Highlight

UD Solar Ambassadors celebrate Mission of Mary’s solar array at the ribbon cutting.

The University of Dayton (UD) Solar Ambassador Team has been involved in the program since 2014! The UD team has brought solar to three nonprofits, including [Mission of Mary Cooperative](#), a nonprofit addressing food deserts and social justice issues in Dayton and [Oak Tree Corner](#) a nonprofit that provides grief support groups for children ages three through 18 who lost someone important in their life.

The team’s second solar project was with [East End Community Services](#), an organization specializing in providing youth, family, and neighborhood development programs in Dayton. Sam Dasco, a Solar Ambassador from 2018-2021 says, “**Visiting East End and seeing the people they helped day in and day out solidified that we were in fact making a difference.**”

Melissa Padera, Solar Ambassador Alum and Team Lead for the UD Solar Ambassador Team says being a Solar Ambassador has, “Helped me collaborate in different types of teams and gain confidence in accomplishing large projects. **I’ve learned a LOT about solar energy, nonprofit work, and how to be an effective leader.**”



RE-volv Supporters

Thank you to the foundations, corporate sponsors, government agencies, and individual donors who have supported our work over the last 10 years. Special thanks to Don Burke, Michael Spiegelman, the Neda Nobari foundation, New Sun Road, and The Kay Family Foundation for sponsoring this 10 Year Impact Report and our 10 Year Anniversary Event.

Thank You to Our Supporters Over the Last 10 Years



Impact Investors

In 2019, RE-volv embarked on a new pathway to scale the Solar Seed Fund, expanding solar energy access through impact investments. Through our first impact investment partnership with Trisolaris we were able to deploy \$9M+ in under a year and a half. Subsequently we have begun raising additional impact investments in the form of recoverable grants, program related investments, and promissory notes. Impact investment partners to-date include:



In-Kind Supporters

We're grateful to all of our in-kind supporters whose donations of products and services made this work possible.



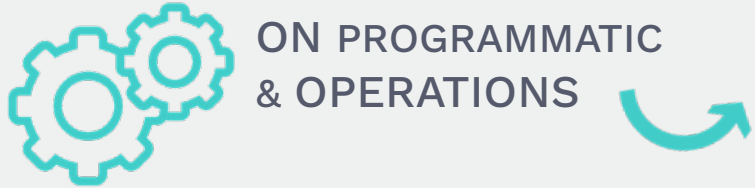
Partners

We're so fortunate to get to work alongside these incredible partner organizations building a more sustainable, equitable world.



RE-volv by the Numbers

In our **10 YEARS**
since our founding,
we have spent a total of
\$3.5 Million



ON PROGRAMMATIC
& OPERATIONS



For every dollar
donated, we've
created a



3x
RETURN
in new solar
installations



and over
5x **RETURN**
in savings for the nonprofits
WE HELPED GO SOLAR



With this
LEAN BUDGET we have created
\$10.3 Million
OF INVESTMENT IN SOLAR
for community-based nonprofits
across the country & provided them
\$18.7 Million
OF LIFETIME
ELECTRICITY
SAVINGS



Our Team

RE-volv Board

Clint Wilder, Jennifer Martin, Jon Gibson,
Kassie Rohrbach, Maura McKnight, Michael
Spiegelman, Dr. Paul Wapner, Robert J. Nelson

Past Board Members

Adrienne Pierce, Geoff Willard, Ken Alston, Me-
gan Crocker, Polly Barranco, Prasanna Krish-
nan, Samy Jana, Sean Miller, Troy Arnold

RE-volv Staff

Andreas Karelas, Founder & Executive Director
Sarah Cabell, Director of Operations
Sean McGaughey, Director of Solar Project Operations
Prasanna Krishnan, Solar Asset Manager
Sydney Muñoz, Community Engagement Coordinator
Mark Soriano, Software Engineer

Former RE-volv Staff

Anna Foreman, Elyse Wood, Gavi Keyles, Julia
Kim, Liz Young, Mark Matos, Ryan Dexter, Sarah
Brinker, Zach Federer

How to Get Involved

Become a Volunteer Solar Ambassador

Become a volunteer Solar Ambassador and help bring solar to a nonprofit in your community! For more infor-
mation and to sign up, visit re-volv.org/volunteer.

Become a Monthly Donor

Our work is made possible by the generous support of people like you! Help nonprofits across the country go
solar by becoming a RE-volv monthly donor at re-volv.org/donate.

Invest in RE-volv

Support nonprofits and advance clean energy across the country by becoming an impact investor with RE-
volv. Your impact investment will accelerate the just transition to a clean energy economy that provides real
economic value to those that need it most. Learn more at re-volv.org/invest.

Stay in Touch

Engage with us on social media, keep us informed about the exciting climate solutions work happening in
your community, and join our newsletter to receive our latest updates. Sign up at re-volv.org/newsletter.

Read Climate Courage

Climate Courage written by our founder, Andreas Karelas, shows us how we can move past our collective
inaction on climate change and work together in our communities to create a more sustainable, just, clean
energy-powered economy that works for everyone. Learn more at climatecourage.us.



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Celebrating 10 Years of Impact
2011 - 2021