



From left to right: Edwin Wanji from Sphere Solar Energy, former staff member Mikhaila Gonzales from Spark Northwest, Dian Ferguson from Central Area Senior Center.

Solution-based & equity focused

Founded in 2001, Spark Northwest works with individuals, groups, and organizations across the Pacific Northwest to develop and realize their clean energy goals. We are a solutions-based, equity-focused nonprofit working at the intersection of clean energy and social justice. This past year, we completed projects that added solar to low-income, Black, Indigenous and people of color-led organizations, saving tens of thousands of dollars annually in energy bills. We supported dozens of rural small businesses in their applications for federal rural clean energy grants. We partnered with several small tribal communities on their energy planning and projects. We advised local governments on how to equitably transition homes toward using clean energy. And with more public interest in energy justice investments, we advocated to ensure new funds are accessible to those most impacted by climate change.



2022 Impact Snapshot

367KW

of completed solar projects in low-income, BIPOC-led communities

\$850k

submitted applications for federal rural energy funding

7

partnerships with cities and counties to equitably electrify homes

500+

people educated about heat pump technology



 Spark
Northwest

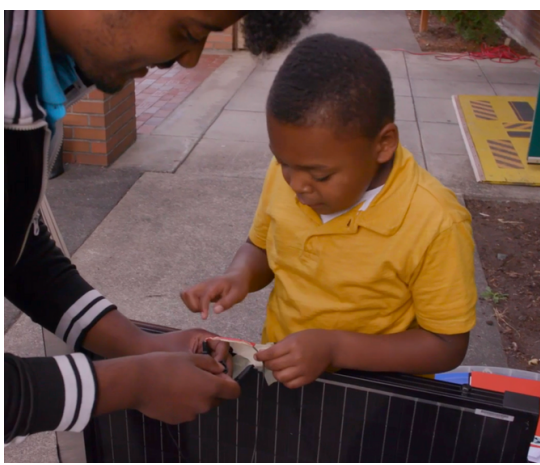
Partnering with
Community-Based
Organizations

Tim Thomas, Executive Director of Oasis of Hope Center in Tacoma, Washington celebrating the completion of the center's clean energy project.

This year we celebrated the completion of clean energy projects for seven community-based organizations: Transitions, Oasis of Hope, Central Area Senior Center, Yakima Valley Partners Habitat for Humanity, Asian Counseling and Referral Services, Bethany United Church of Christ and the Foothills Food Bank.

Partner Spotlight: Oasis of Hope Center, Tacoma, Washington

After last year's successful solar installation on Shiloh Baptist Church in Tacoma, we learned that a neighboring church, Oasis of Hope Center, was also interested in adding solar to their community center. Oasis of Hope is a spiritual, educational, and recreational resource for underserved youth and adults in the surrounding Hilltop community. Over the past 17 years, the center has proudly served close to 70,000 people, assisting with counseling, childcare, funeral services, after school programs and much more.



Tacoma youth at Oasis of Hope Center learning about solar panels.

Once we connected with Oasis of Hope Executive Director, Tim Thomas, things came together quickly. The church partnered with solar installer Sphere Solar, a Black-owned business, to design the project. Spark Northwest facilitated by pairing a utility grant with a matching grant from a local family foundation who were also inspired by the Shiloh story. In the summer of 2022, the new installation went up, fully funded, and the community center began saving on their utility bills.



Spark Northwest Project Manager, Amy Bettel.

Advancing Rural Clean Energy

Many rural areas have a higher percentage of low-income residents or face other unique challenges to adopting clean energy technologies such as lack of broadband, contractors and/or service providers. We support farmers, small businesses, and rural communities to overcome these hurdles through technical assistance and grant-writing support.

In 2022 we assisted 11 rural small businesses and farms to apply for USDA funding to install nearly 2.5MW of solar to reduce utility bills.



Spark Northwest Project Manager, Mia Devine.

Electrification in Partnership with Cities and Counties

Spark Northwest has expanded its focus to address another major carbon-reduction strategy for our region:



helping families switch to energy efficient electric heating and cooling for their homes, and away from burning fossil fuel.

In 2022 we partnered with seven local governments on campaigns that included significant investments to offset heat pump costs for people with limited resources. In keeping with our mission, we worked closely with the public entities to incorporate equitable design features, such as covering costs for families with low incomes, including workforce development training to support minority-owned installers, and offering linguistic- and culturally-appropriate outreach and support.



 Spark
Northwest

Tribal Energy
Sovereignty

Spark Northwest Project Manager, Mia Devine, with members of the Makah Tribe during a 2022 planning session.

For nearly two decades Spark Northwest has partnered with tribal entities working on clean energy planning. We cultivate planning teams with the capacity, know-how and authority to move projects forward. We match projects with funding sources necessary to deploy projects.

Partner Spotlight: The Nooksack and Makah Indian Tribes

In 2022 the Nooksack Indian Tribe celebrated the completion of a 50KW solar array on a newly constructed warehouse to store emergency equipment and food supplies. For a long time, the Nooksack had been interested in renewable energy but were not sure how to get started. Once they connected with Spark Northwest a project was identified and a pathway to funding was created. The new installation will save the Nooksack over \$4,000 on their annual energy bills and they are eager to begin developing their next clean energy project. Nooksack Planning Manager Ross Klein, Jr. is hopeful that the Tribe's success will inspire other tribal communities to pursue clean energy as well.



Spark Northwest Project Manager Mia Devine with Ross Cline Jr. from the Nooksack Indian Tribe.

Currently, we are helping to facilitate a partnership between the Makah Tribe and National Renewable Energy Laboratory for technical assistance to advance the community's energy sovereignty. The project will deepen community engagement by helping Makah Tribe staff communicate renewable energy options to community members and integrate their priorities, perspective, and knowledge into its planning.



Spark Northwest Executive Director, Andrea Axel, with community members at the Arlington Microgrid in Washington.

A Broader Impact with Policy Advocacy

Our policy work is informed by our on-the-ground community energy projects. In 2022, we testified before the King County Council, supporting new building codes to require all-electric heating for new commercial buildings in Unincorporated King County. We advocated for state funds to help low-income Washingtonians make their homes safer, healthier, and more energy efficient. We supported the Healthy Through Heat and Smoke Campaign, to greenlight development of 13 community centers to be climate resilience hubs in Seattle. In the second half of 2022 we worked closely with clean energy partners to develop fair and accessible community solar policy for the legislative session that kicked off early in 2023.



Washington State Capitol.

*Spark Northwest staff in the summer of 2022.*

Momentum is Building for Spark Northwest

Our nonprofit organization is in a solid financial position, with a diverse revenue stream, including fee-for-service, philanthropic support and government contracts. Thanks to our supporters, our team of clean energy experts is growing, and we expanded to nine staff members, including the addition of a Policy Manager to advocate for greater energy equity in our region. In 2022 we augmented our staff with two fellows, who added valuable Tribal expertise and grassroots energy efficiency campaign experience. We also brought on two new board members with experience in finance, clean energy, green building and local advocacy.

*Long-time Spark Northwest Board Members Lisa Wyler and Josh Khanna.*

We value diversity, equity and inclusion in our mission and our operations, recognizing that concerted effort is required to overcome racial and economic injustice. We devote time at every board and staff meeting to engage with equity-focused topics. We intentionally recruit new board and staff members with lived and professional experience in communities of color and low-wealth to enhance our team's effectiveness. One-third of our staff and half of our board identify as people of color.

You can find our latest financials on our website, www.sparknorthwest.org

2022
at a
glance

130+

Number of individuals who donated in 2022

19

9 staff and 10 board members

\$970k

Annual Budget for 2022

52+

Number of all-staff equity discussions