

COMMUNITY-BASED PARTNERS AND RURAL WORK

Spark Northwest works to expand clean energy to groups that have been traditionally excluded from opportunities due to barriers related to financing, capacity and policy. This year we supported clean energy projects for seven community-based partners: 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. We also assisted 11 rural small businesses and farms to apply for USDA funding. All of these partners play a vital role in the well-being of the communities they serve and each are essential to an equitable, clean energy transition in our region.

ADVANCING CLEAN ENERGY

In 2022 we worked with Rogue Climate to support 37 households in rural Oregon to install energy efficient heat pumps. We are a proud partner of Energy Smart Eastside – a multi-city program in Washington that has resulted in over 500 people attending our free, online workshops to learn about heat pumps. We also launched a program in partnership with King County, Emerald Cities and ECOSS, to upgrade 150 low-income homes in White Center and Skyway to electric heating and cooling systems - at no cost to homeowners.



TRIBAL ENERGY PLANNING

We are collaborating with the Makah Tribe as they develop a clean energy project with technical help from NREL. We hosted a Tribal Energy Funding webinar, bringing program officers from across the country together with local Tribal members to learn about funding and technical assistance opportunities. We partnered with the Nooksack Indian Tribe to support the completion of its 50kW solar array on a newly constructed emergency equipment warehouse.

POLICY ADVOCACY

Our policy work is informed by our on-the-ground community energy projects. We testified before the King County Council, supporting new building codes to require all-electric heating for new commercial buildings in Unincorporated King County. These code updates successfully passed! We advocated for state funds to help low-income Washingtonians make their homes safer, healthier, and more energy efficient. We also supported the Healthy Through Heat and Smoke Campaign, to greenlight development of 13 community centers to be climate resilience hubs in Seattle.

