



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
Spark Northwest

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Organization's General Goals:

We draw on our tactical experience to advocate for policy reform that paves the way for widespread adoption of clean energy. We convene stakeholders and build coalitions to research, design and advocate for policies that promote equitable renewable energy implementation.

Date of Award:	Level:
2017 Q4	\$2,501 to \$5,000

Specific Use for This Award:

This award was used for administrative and program expenses. For more information, please read the attached report from Spark Northwest.

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271
TulalipCares.org

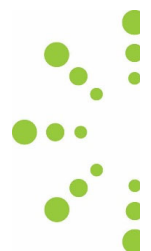
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With the support of the Tulalip Tribes, Spark Northwest, formerly Northwest SEED, made significant strides in advancing our vision of a Pacific Northwest powered by clean energy. To date, we have helped over 1,000 farmers, Native Americans and homeowners switch to clean energy, resulting in over 11 megawatts of local renewable energy generation, \$21 Million in economic investment, and dozens of green jobs.

Program Highlights

In 2018, we offered eight programs serving close to 400 energy consumers across Washington and Oregon. A few of our accomplishments include:

- *Solar Group Purchase:* Spark Northwest catalyzed four Solarize campaigns in Issaquah, Mercer Island, South Yakima County and Whatcom County. So far, these campaigns have resulted in 62 solar installations, \$1.6M invested into the local economy, and the education of 336 community members about the benefits of solar energy. This year we held our first-ever solar workshop in Spanish, targeting agricultural producers in Yakima who are uniquely situated to benefit from the economic savings that solar energy provides.
- *Energy Efficiency Group Purchase:* In 2018 we wrapped up our Energize Rogue campaign in Southern Oregon. This campaign was very well received by the community, resulting in a total of 121 ultra-efficient ductless heat pump installations, \$27,000 in annual energy savings and six jobs created or retained. Additionally, 11 participants reduced their reliance on wood and oil heating either partially or entirely thereby reducing local particulate matter.
- *Rural and Tribal Energy:* We assisted 16 farmers and rural small businesses in overcoming the technological and financing hurdles of renewable energy projects. Nine of these farmers have secured funding with our assistance to install renewable energy systems and we expect this number to grow. We also began a new advocacy partnership with the Spokane Indian Housing Authority to support the development of a large solar installation on their reservation.
- *Access Solar:* After evaluating over 200 buildings, Spark Northwest and Emerald Cities Seattle secured commitments from six affordable housing providers to advance ten buildings (housing 850 low-income residents) for community solar installations in Seattle. Our financing partner hired an experienced solar developer who will own and manage the operation of the solar facilities. The project team is marching towards a November 2019 installation goal and is in the process of finalizing power purchase agreements with housing providers.
- *Solar Plus:* Led by Spark Northwest, the Solar Plus team consists of twenty utilities, state energy offices, solar industry groups and environmental justice organizations across Washington and Oregon. In the second of a three year program, we began implementing strategies to boost solar deployment by leveraging the full social, technical and environmental benefits of solar. We advanced the development of community solar programs with low income participation, created workforce development pathways for diversifying the solar industry, supported community energy planning, and educated utilities about solar for grid resilience.
- *Policy Advocacy:* In Washington, we built strong bi-partisan relationships and advanced a net metering bill to the floor for a final vote. Unfortunately, legislative priorities shifted to non-energy bills on the last day of session and time ran out for a vote. In Oregon, we co-led a low-income work group to inform and influence community solar regulation. This resulted in the Public Utility Commission adopting a favorable energy credit rate that increases the economic viability of community solar. We also endorsed two statewide energy initiatives: Washington Initiative 1631 (which did not pass) and the Portland Clean Energy Initiative (which won by a large margin). The Portland initiative will direct \$30M annually to clean energy jobs and has strong equity provisions benefiting low-income and communities of color.



Organizational Updates

Spark Northwest is in a strong financial position. Our 2018 financials are not yet complete, however we expect to end the year with a slight surplus due to aggressive fundraising, careful spending, and cost-savings. In addition, we continue to maintain a board-controlled operating reserve of three months strengthening our overall financial standing. In response to the political instability at the federal level, we worked diligently to diversify our funding by increasing revenue from other sources. We gained an astounding seven new foundation funders and a handful of new corporate sponsors to support our programs and general operations. Our overall revenue diversity for 2018 is estimated to be: 40% government, 38% foundation, 14% corporate and 8% through individual giving.

In 2018, we brought on two new board members who added skills and experience in economics, philanthropy, education and technology. We also added two University of Washington board fellows who researched the feasibility of launching a new program. Over the past year, we moved to multi-year budgeting, completed a competitive auditor selection process, implemented a new timekeeping system, revamped our employee performance evaluation process, updated our Executive Director succession policy, and retained pro bono legal assistance to improve our consulting agreements. All of these efforts helped us deliver quality programs and maintain operational stability.

We also deepened our commitment to becoming a more environmentally and socially just organization. Equity Matters consultants delivered foundational trainings and helped us establish a racial equity strategy. Armed with new tools and knowledge, we accomplished the following:

- We formed an internal team to identify opportunities that address biases and inequities in our policies and practices. The team is creating equity value statements, facilitating monthly discussions, and developing accountability metrics.
- Using a racial equity tool, we mapped our Solarize program across four quadrants: business as usual, programmatic racial equity, access and inclusion, and structural racial equity. This helped us identify practices to adopt that increase access. For example, we worked with a community to hire a minority-owned solar installer who was able to grow his business and add three new jobs. We are working on additional pivots that aim to address structural racial equity.
- We strengthened partnerships with advocates across the region, such as Verde, Front and Centered, ECOSS, Puget Sound Sage, Washington Low Income Housing Alliance, and Spokane Indian Tribe and coordinated responses to specific legislation to increase affordable clean energy access. We participated in the 100% Equitable and Renewable City Workgroup, which is a three-year effort between the City of Seattle and Puget Sound Sage that centers racial equity and social justice in efforts to achieve carbon neutrality. We also supported allies in response to their calls to action. For example, we advocated for the preservation of affordable housing in SeaTac after a request from the Tenant's Union of Washington State.

We are actively working to shift programs, policies, and culture so that equity is embedded deeply within our organization. Our goal is for Spark Northwest to emerge as a trusted ally and for marginalized communities to directly benefit from our work.

Fueling our Vision

Through real-time strategic planning we constantly monitor the changing landscape of our sector to make strategic and responsive decisions about how best to align our resources to execute our mission. Details on our strategic plan and the associated metrics we use to track success are available upon request. As we continue to scale and replicate our community energy programs, we will address three overarching priorities: 1) Increase access to affordable clean energy for low-income and rural communities, 2) Expand our capacity to serve Native American tribes, and 3) Advocate for equitable renewable energy incentives that target benefits to marginalized communities. We look forward to sharing additional updates about this work in our next communication to you.

