

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

*"...someday we will harness the rise and fall of
the tides and imprison the rays of the sun. "*

Thomas Alva Edison

Empowerment through solar electricity





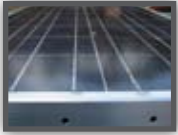
Who We Are

Power to the People is a non profit organization working with volunteers to bring solar electricity to community buildings in rural areas in the developing world. Our mission is to create opportunities for communities and individuals to improve the quality of their own lives through the installation of renewable energy technologies. By working together towards a common goal, volunteers learn about renewable energy technologies, community development, and gain a new perspective about life in another culture.



Where We Work

Power to the People is currently working on projects in rural Nicaragua. We focus on bringing solar electric technology to community buildings in areas with no access to electricity. Our projects bring lights and power to buildings that benefit the entire community, including schools, health care centers, orphanages, and libraries. Our US fundraising events and volunteers also help raise awareness about solar energy in the United States.



Lights and Power

It is difficult to imagine living without electricity when so much of daily lives depend on it. How many times a day do we use lights, computers, televisions, computers, microwaves, radios, elevators, and so much more?

Electricity allows us to access information, be more efficient and productive in our jobs, experience the comforts of a heated or air-conditioned building, stay healthy, and enjoy the latest innovations in entertainment and communication. Electricity enables us to grow through our participation in innovation, discovery, and comfort.

Solar Electricity

Solar (“photovoltaic”) electricity converts sunlight into electricity to power our lights, fans, televisions, computers, and other electric devices. While traditional electricity created from fossil fuels emits harmful greenhouse gases into the environment, solar electricity is clean. It is said that enough solar energy falls on our planet every hour to meet our energy needs for an entire year. Unlike fossil fuels, solar energy is not a finite resource and will never run out. Many people around the world have never had access to electricity and Power to the People believes there is no need to start with fossil fuel power and switch to renewable energy later on - let’s set an example and do it right the first time around.



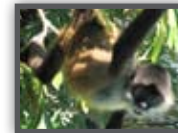


About Nicaragua

Nicaragua, located in Central America between Honduras and Costa Rica, is home to approximately 6 million people. It is known for its production of bananas, coffee, tobacco, and textiles, for its tropical climate, its rich culture, and for its beautiful geography sprinkled with lakes and volcanoes. Historically, it is also known for the Managua Earthquake of 1972, the Sandanista revolution (or the Iran-Contra affair) of the 1980s, and Hurricane Mitch in 1998 - all of which caused massive destruction to the country's infrastructure.

Nicaragua is the poorest Latin country in Central America with 48% of its people living below the poverty line (earning less than \$1.25 a day). Like most developing countries, much of the poverty is located in rural areas, where people live day to day hoping to make enough money or crops to feed their families. Solar energy can have a tremendous impact on a community located in such a remote area that has no hope of ever being connected to the electric grid.

In Nicaragua, 72 percent of children living in a household with electricity attend school. Those who live in households without electricity have a school attendance rate of only 50 percent." Quote from The World Bank President, Paul Wolfowitz





How You Can Help

1) *Financial Support*

Our projects are only possible when they are funded. Your financial support goes a long way and any amount you are able to donate is greatly appreciated.

2) *Come to Nicaragua with us!*

Travel to Nicaragua with us as part of our “voluntourism” program where you will get hands on experience installing a solar system and learn about life in Nicaragua. Trips are usually one week long and prices vary.

3) *Community events*

Power to the People’s community fundraising events are a fun way to learn about and support our projects. We hope to see you at one of our “Soular Mixers” or our “Green Speed Dating” events (www.greenspeeddating.org).

4) *Corporate Sponsorships/ Equipment Donations*

Financial contributions and equipment donations help us lower our project costs dramatically. We are happy to develop a sponsorship package that works for you based on your donation of funds, PV modules, inverters, or other solar equipment.

If you would like to support Power to the People, please contact us at jenean@powertothepeople.org.





El Pedregal, Nicaragua

On March 19, 2009, Power to the People installed a 1kW DC solar electric system (photovoltaic) on the roof of the public school in El Pedregal, Nicaragua. El Pedregal is a small village located in an extremely rural area of central Nicaragua in the department of Boaco, approximately three hours walking distance from the nearest town of 6,000 people. The community has one school with one teacher who teaches all of the children in the community at once in the same classroom. The residents have no electricity, no potable water, and most residents do not even have latrines.

Power to the People volunteers installed a 1kW off-grid battery-based photovoltaic system comprised of eight 123Wp modules, an inverter, 8 batteries, 11 lights, and 4 outlets for the 2-room school. The inverter converts DC electricity produced by the solar modules into AC electricity so the school is able to have power outlets in the walls to power fans, computers, televisions, radios, or other electric devices.

The solar system has not only brought light to this small community, it has given adults who are taking classes in other towns a place to study in the evening, it has allowed people of all ages a chance to attend televised distant learning classes, created a safe community meeting location at night, has made more advanced teaching aids during the day possible, and may also improve teacher and student attendance by creating a more comfortable learning environment.



Sun-Powered Health Care Center

It is easy to take access to health care for granted until we really need it and it's not there. For millions of people in Nicaragua, rural health care centers are the only option that is available to them in a one-day journey. Many health care centers in rural areas have no electricity, no potable water, and no refrigeration, making medical care very difficult to perform, especially when emergencies arise at night. In many cases, the trip to the nearest town with electricity is nearly impossible for elderly, pregnant, and sick residents.

Power to the People is currently raising funds to install a solar electric system on a community health care center in rural Nicaragua in early 2010. Access to electricity will help the rural health care center keep vaccines and medications refrigerated, treat patients with emergencies in the evening, sterilize medical equipment with steam and hot water, and give the medical staff access to cell phone communication.

For more information, please visit www.powertothepeople.org. We are always looking for financial contributions, PV module or off-grid inverter donations, and volunteer support.

To support this project please email jenean@powertothepeople.org.





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