

Decent Housing & Viable Communities

Solar Affordable Homes

San Diego, CA

Project Profile

SNAPSHOT

Activity Type – Housing rehabilitation.

Beneficiaries – 200 low-income homeowners.

CDBG Funds – \$518,000 from 2011-2014

Key Result – Reducing ongoing electricity costs for low-income homeowners while training unemployed or underemployed workers for jobs in a growing field and helping to improve air quality in the region.

Words of Advice – Focus on the communities that bear the brunt of high utility costs as well as the environmental impacts.

More Information – www.gridalternatives.org



PLACE

San Diego's annual average 267 days of sunshine make it an ideal place for harnessing solar power.

PEOPLE

GRID Alternatives San Diego bridges the solar divide by bringing solar energy to low-income families who could not otherwise afford it while training the green workforce of tomorrow.

PROJECT

Solar panels are installed on the homes of low-income homeowners by GRID staff, volunteers, and job trainees. Solar power saves utility costs and encourages low- to moderate-income families to be early adopters of solar technology, to spread the word in their communities about its benefits, and to be more energy aware and responsible. Clients save an average of \$550 per year on electricity costs. CDBG Funds supported the purchase of solar materials and supplies, such as modules, inverters, racking, wire and fittings.

PARTNERS

The project is administered by GRID Alternatives, a nonprofit that operates in nine states with a trifold mission of bringing the benefits of solar power to communities that would not otherwise have access to it, preparing workers for jobs in the fast-growing solar industry, and helping clean the environment. Other project partners include the City of San Diego Economic Development Department, the San Diego Housing Commission, City Heights Community Development Corporation, the Urban Corps of San Diego, the San Diego Center for Employment and Training, and the Metro United Methodist Urban Ministries.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Serving Low- and Moderate-Income Persons and Neighborhoods in the U.S.

