

SOLAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AT STANDING ROCK

Community-owned power. Local jobs. Energy for future generations.

About

SAGE Development Authority is a federally chartered Section 17 Corporation, 100% owned by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. Born from the momentum of the #NoDAPL movement, SAGE was founded to channel that energy into something lasting: community-owned renewable energy, economic growth, and self-determination for the Standing Rock Nation.

Every project SAGE develops, every dollar raised, and every decision made is guided by one question: what will serve our people seven generations from now?

SAGE's work spans utility-scale wind, electric vehicle infrastructure, and community solar. Our community solar program is one of the most direct expressions of our mission: clean energy, built here, owned here, benefiting the people who call Standing Rock home.

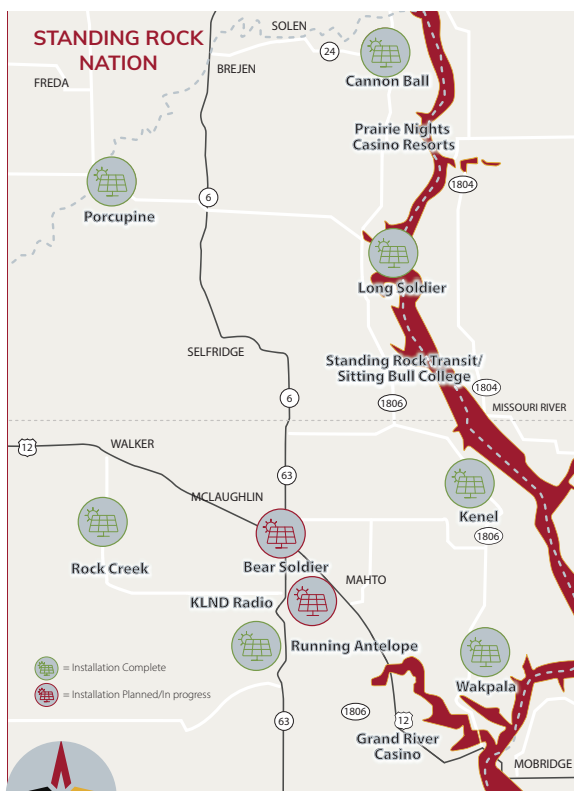
*"The sun is our relative that provides hope and life;
it promises a new type of empowerment for our Standing Rock Nation."*

What We Built and Why It Matters

Starting in 2024, SAGE installed 10kw solar panel systems on community buildings and Head Start centers across Standing Rock. We began with the places that matter most to our community: the spaces where elders gather, where children learn, and where families come for support.

Twelve solar installations are now complete, across the Standing Rock Nation. Every building generates its own power.

Where The Solar is



12

SOLAR ARRAYS
INSTALLED

9

COMMUNITY MEMBERS
TRAINED AS
APPRENTICES

7

DISTRICTS SERVED
ACROSS
STANDING ROCK

Each installation is monitored through SolarEdge software. Every dollar saved on electricity stays in the community, available for the program and people that matter most.

ENERGY SAVED: 258,053 kWh generated

DOLLARS SAVED: \$23,962 saved

That clean energy adds up. 258,053 kWh of solar generation kept 221 metric tons of CO2 out of the air, the same as:

- 24,908 Gallons of gasoline consumed
- 245,891 Pounds of coal burned
- 40.5 Homes' electricity use for one year

Savings from midyear 2024 through May 2026



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Jobs Built Here, for Here

From the beginning, workforce development was a core goal of SAGE's community solar program. SAGE partnered with Lightspring Solar and Standing Rock's Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) to recruit and train local community members as solar apprentices for both rounds of installation.

Nine community members trained and worked alongside the Lightspring Solar crew. The first cohort of three apprentices impressed the Lightspring team so much that they were offered continued employment for the remainder of the 2024 construction season. Members of the second cohort have since gone on to careers in solar installation. One used the apprenticeship to add new technical skills to an existing construction business. This is the beginning of a solar workforce at Standing Rock, built here, owned here, and positioned to grow with every future installation.

Celebrating the Work

Each round of installations was marked with a community event to honor the apprentices, present them with certificates of completion, and share the work with our community. The celebrations were held at community buildings in Porcupine and the Wakpala Community Center and were attended by elders, children, apprentice families, Tribal council members, and SAGE staff.

"Our goal is to harness the power of our land and our people to create economic opportunities and energy independence, protect our environment, and invest in our future."



This Is Only the Beginning

SAGE's goal is solar access across all eight Standing Rock districts including community buildings, Head Start centers, and eventually homes.

In 2025, SAGE completed the financial closeout of the ten completed projects and launched the Investment Tax Credit (Elective Pay) process. Now, those returns are being reinvested directly into future SAGE community projects. The work done today is funding the work of tomorrow.

In December 2025, SAGE received delivery of 63 solar panels in preparation for the next phase of installations. SAGE recruited for summer 2026 apprenticeship opportunities and is partnering with Sitting Bull College to connect current and former building trades and electrician students with hands-on apprenticeship experience, while also working closely with a Standing Rock Sioux Tribe building committee to support permitting and ensure the community knows this opportunity is available.

The equipment is here. The community support is here. The technical knowledge and the apprenticeship model are in place. SAGE is ready.

"Every dollar saved on electricity is a dollar our community can invest in the programs and people that matter most."

Why This Work Matters

Solar energy at Standing Rock is not just about electricity. It is about who controls the power, who benefits from it, and who gets to decide. SAGE's community solar program advances four goals that guide all of our work:

Workforce Development | Equipping community members with skills and jobs in the renewable energy sector.

Community Savings | Directing energy savings back to Tribal buildings and members.

Energy Independence | Producing our own power and reducing reliance on outside utilities.

Bridging Past and Future | Honoring our values while building infrastructure for generations to come.



**Learn more about SAGE's Community Solar work
and all of our projects for the Standing Rock Nation.**

sagerst.com/projects/community-solar



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