



PG&E's Better Together Giving Program Classroom Grants



Partners



Quick Facts

- In some developing countries, the only after-hour lighting options are candles, oil lamps and battery-operated devices, which are costly, unhealthy and non-renewable
- In California, each classroom set of suitcases increases a school's emergency preparedness by doubling as a portable charging, lighting and communication source in disasters

PG&E Solar Suitcase Program

In partnership with We Share Solar and WE Charity, the PG&E Solar Suitcase program educates Northern and Central California students to be the next generation of energy-smart environmental leaders. By combining engineering education with real-world applicability, teachers cultivate students' interests in clean energy and inspire them to meet an immediate societal need by delivering solar energy to the developing world.

The PG&E Solar Suitcase program, part of the PG&E Foundation's Better Together Giving Program, empowers 8th-12th grade students to build We Share Solar[®] Suitcases. The program places special emphasis on leveraging a hands-on and humanitarian approach to engage girls and Latinos who are among the students traditionally under-represented in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).

Encouraging youth to "act locally and think globally," students complete a local environmental sustainability project and compete for the chance to send 1 teacher and 2 students on an environmental leadership trip to distribute the solar suitcases to energy-scarce regions of the world, like the Ecuadorian Amazon.

- **Hands-On STEM Education**
Participating students and teachers build We Share Solar[®] Suitcases, which are portable power producing units equipped with a solar panel, 12v battery, and charge controller which can light 1-2 rooms and charge small devices for multiple hours. Teachers receive professional development training and over \$8,000 of free equipment to support the program.
- **Act Locally: Community Service**
Schools compete for the chance to install the built solar units internationally by submitting a short video documenting their local [environmental sustainability project](#) designed to benefit their community.
- **Think Globally: Suitcase Delivery**
New schools participating in the 2017-2018 program will compete for the chance to deliver suitcases to rural communities in the Ecuadorian Amazon in the spring of 2018.

Program Impact

Since its inception in 2015, the program has

- Trained and supported 37 teachers across Northern and Central California
- Educated 2,015 Californian students on sustainable energy
- Delivered clean, renewable energy to 15,000 Kenyan students

Learn more about the PG&E Solar Suitcase program at www.pge.com/solarsuitcase