



PG&E's Better Together Giving Program Classroom Grants



Partners



Quick Facts

- Around the world, more than 1 billion people lack access to modern electricity
- 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 employees support teachers in building Solar Suitcases in their classrooms

PG&E Solar Suitcase Program

In partnership with We Share Solar and WE Charity, the award-winning 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 renewable 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 of 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 Kenya and Haiti.

- **Hands-On STEM Education**
Participating students 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 a local environmental sustainability project they designed to benefit their community.
- **Think Globally: Suitcase Delivery**
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 50 teachers across Northern and Central California
- Educated more than 2,000 Californian students on renewable energy
- Delivered nearly 100 Solar Suitcases to more than 28,000 beneficiaries in 13 regions of the world, including Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Peru, and Haiti

Contact Us

Visit pge.com/solarsuitcase or contact communityrelations@pge.com for details.