

PG&E's Better Together Giving Program

Classroom Grants

PG&E Solar Suitcase program

In partnership with We Share Solar,[®] the award-winning PG&E Solar Suitcase Program educates Northern and Central California students to be the next generation energy-smart environmental leaders. By combining hands-on 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.

Encouraging youth to "act locally and think globally," students complete a local Solar Suitcase deployment project, in addition to building a Solar Suitcase that will be deployed internationally to serve youth in energy-scarce regions of the world.

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 1–3 rooms and charge small devices for multiple hours. Teachers receive professional development training and over \$7,000 of free equipment to support the program.

Act locally: domestic Solar Suitcase deployment

Schools participating in the 2018–2019 program will deploy one student built Solar Suitcase to a local community within the United States. Domestic placement types include interim homeless encampments, tribal lands, and emergency preparedness neighborhood centers.

Think globally: international Solar Suitcase deployment

Participating schools will deploy a second student-built Solar Suitcase to rural school or community center sites in East Africa, bringing sustainable energy solutions and global connection to energy-scarce regions of the world.

Program impact

Since its inception in 2015, the program has:

- Trained and supported 70 teachers across Northern and Central California
- Educated more than 3,900 Californian students on renewable energy
- Delivered 161 Solar Suitcases to more than 40,000 beneficiaries in 13 regions of the world, including Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Peru, Haiti and Puerto Rico.

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



Apply by May 30

For school and non-profit applications, visit pge.com/solarsuitcase



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