Project Overview
Students at Northern Arizona University (NAU) design and install small solar and/or wind energy systems and conduct educational outreach activities at regional tribal schools. These activities are integrated into a junior engineering course at NAU, and the technical aspects of each installation are overseen by the course instructor and a certified renewable energy installer. The outreach coordinator for NAU’s Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) oversees all interactions with tribal schools. Detailed data about the energy produced by each solar and wind energy system are stored and used in ongoing educational and research projects at participating schools.

Educational Goals
As a result of these projects, NAU students are expected to learn about modern renewable energy technologies, develop practical trade skills, gain project management experience, and increase their awareness of and interactions with regional native cultures. Through the outreach activities and mentoring from NAU students, we hope to encourage more Native American students to pursue higher education, particularly in the fields of science and engineering. The project will also support precollege teachers with innovative renewable energy curricula, along with training and ongoing assistance in implementing the activities.

Financial Contributions
The cost per renewable energy installation, each of which will produce a few kilowatts of power, is approximately $20,000. Previous contributors include Arizona Public Service, Peabody Energy, Prometheus Renewables, and the Buffalo Fence & Barn Company.

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