



bonneville environmental foundation

Founded in 1998, Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) is essentially a non-profit business. Empowering individuals and businesses to participate in solving our most pressing environmental issues through the sale of green power products (known as carbon offsets), BEF reinvests its net revenues, or “profits,” in programs that restore damaged watersheds and support development and understanding of renewable energy technologies.

BEF’s Project Management Group (PMG) operates the Solar 4R Schools program, working closely with a diverse set of funding partners to deliver hands-on experience with renewable energy technologies to schools and community centers in the Pacific Northwest and throughout the United States.

PMG offers a variety of services that can be delivered in full or a la carte, depending on each partner’s objectives. From directly managing the installation of solar-electric or small-wind systems on schools or community buildings, to integrating interactive renewable energy education programs into schools with existing systems nearby, BEF tailors specific solutions to implement the most educationally effective projects possible for each partnership.



Port Townsend High School students jump for joy at their Solar 4R Schools installation. Photo by Jan Boutilier.

For more information or to see how BEF’s Project Management Group can work with your organization, contact Bryce Smith at bsmith@b-e-f.org or 206.274.4648.

Standard Services

BEF offers complete project management services, including:

- RFP creation and distribution
- Project viability analysis and recommendation
- Contractor solicitation and selection
- Budgeting
- Installation
- Renewable energy education (activity guides, science kits)
- Teacher-training workshops
- Press release and community outreach support
- Project marketing and event coordination
- Online project data monitoring

Partners

BEF currently works with a host of utilities, non-profits, corporations and governmental agencies on various projects, including:

- Bonneville Power Administration
- City of Ellensburg, WA
- Clark Public Utilities
- Cowlitz PUD
- Edwards Mother Earth Foundation
- Energy Trust of Oregon
- FOX Broadcasting Company
- Idaho Power
- Northwest Environmental Defense Center
- Portfolio 21
- Portland General Electric
- Puget Sound Energy
- Seattle City Light
- Snohomish County PUD
- Vote For Change
- Wells Fargo

Fact and Figures

Since 2004, BEF has reinvested more than \$1,000,000 in small-scale, renewable energy demonstration projects.

BEF has installed nearly 100 renewable-energy demonstration systems around the country, with projects in the following places:

California	Iowa	Nevada	Vermont
Colorado	Maine	Ohio	Washington
Florida	Michigan	Oregon	Washington, D.C.
Idaho	Montana	Utah	Wisconsin





BEF's Project Management Group offers marketing, public relations and community outreach support for all projects in the Solar 4R Schools program, including:

- Project pages for BEF websites
- Project content and data for partner's website
- Press release composition and/or review
- Press follow up and coordination
- Event planning (celebration, press conference etc.)
- Kiosk or other onsite signage opportunities
- Renewable energy collateral for the community
- Post-project follow up

Events Tailored to Each Project's Unique Qualities

Each project has a unique relationship to its community. Some schools are in areas well acquainted with the power and promise of solar or wind energy and others are very unfamiliar with the technology. Some town governments take active roles and want to participate in the celebration event. At other schools, the event is focused only on the students and their parents. Some teachers develop special activities to support the celebration. Every event reflects the project and its community.



Parents and teachers learn a lot about renewable energy at Sunnyside School's Environmental Invention Convention during a May evening celebration in Portland, OR.

Recent Projects: Events, Press and Partner Comments



Merrill Middle School

Event included an eco-fair and speeches; coverage in Des Moines Register



Des Moines, IA

It's been a pleasure working with the Bonneville Foundation staff on this project, the first of five completed with Wells Fargo funding. On the "unveiling" day we were lucky to enjoy blue skies and participation from the mayor of Des Moines, the Des Moines Public School Superintendent, and senior managers from Wells Fargo. The students created projects featured at an Eco Fair after the ceremony, and we hosted a reception for parents and interested community members that added to the festivities.

- Kathy Murphy, Wells Fargo



Toutle Lake High School

Event included lunchtime speeches; press coverage in The Daily News



Toutle, WA

As photographed by Roger Werth for the The Daily News, Toutle Lake High School student Evan Bean showed off the school's new solar energy panels on front page of that paper one June morning.

Speakers at the event included the teacher champion, two students, the utility commissioner and a guest from Burgerville, the utility's largest clean energy customer in the region.





Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) developed the Solar 4R Schools program in 2002 to foster knowledge and excitement about renewable energy technology in American schools and communities.

Since 2002, the program has delivered hands-on experience with solar electricity to more than 30,000 students, parents, teachers and facilities personnel in nearly 100 schools and community centers in 15 states and the District of Columbia, becoming the most comprehensive solar schools program in the nation.

The Solar 4R Schools educational program focuses primarily on solar and wind energy, but also includes information about other renewable technologies and energy efficiency.

Classroom activities, science kits, teacher training and ongoing support are provided for all schools. Additionally, some schools get interactive kiosks, student workshops, community outreach events and other educational tools.



Sunnyside Environmental School students view real-time power production and weather data on the school's interactive kiosk."

Education for Schools and Communities with Renewable Energy

If your school or community already has a prominent solar or wind project nearby, BEF can supply you with supporting educational tools and training.

Solar 4R Schools provides:

- Three activity guides correlated to state and national standards
 - Level one for 3rd - 6th Grades
 - Level two for 7th - 9th Grades
 - Level three for 10th - 12th Grades
- Online project data monitoring and data analysis activities
- Teacher training and ongoing support
- Teacher newsletter and online activity supplements
- Student workshops, such as "build your own solar panel"
- Marketing, public relations and community outreach support

Solar 4R Schools Activities and Science Kits

Dave Lettero, BEF's education manager, has distilled the best available materials for renewable energy education into activity guides and ready-to-use science kits so teachers can implement the program easily.

The Solar 4R Schools educational package includes content and materials from a variety of notable renewable energy organizations, including:

Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Energy Education Group (a.k.a. Educators for the Environment),
KidWind Project
National Energy Education Development Project (NEED)
National Renewable Energy Laboratories
Oregon Institute of Technology
Solar Radiation Monitoring Lab
Solar Schoolhouse Program
Solar Cookers International
SunWind Solar Industries Inc.
U.S. Department of Energy

