

# Solar in the Time of COVID

# **Transform Fresno Annual Summit**

## Background

GRID Alternatives Solar Collaborative seeks to provide solar access to qualifying families under the Transform Fresno effort in collaboration with the Strategic Growth Council, the City of Fresno, Stone Soup Fresno, and The Fresno Center.



Our Goal is to install 60 single family homes and 5 multifamily complexes with energy saving solar retrofits with the outcome of reducing energy costs for families located in the 93706, 93721 and 93701 areas of the City.



#### **Statement of the Problem**

In 2019, the nation was impacted by a deadly virus commonly known as COVID-19 which to date has caused 457,974 deaths Nationally and 41,819 deaths in the State of California alone.

Our challenge is to continue to install solar in a manner that is safe for the community and our workers.

Source: U.S. Worldometer www.worldometers.info>us

## **Prevention is the Key**

At GRID Alternatives, the health and safety of clients and employees is key to everything we do.

Our focus is on:

- Jobsite Safety
- Health and well being for those we serve



# What was Normal Before is No Longer

Prior to the pandemic GRID Alternatives' outreach staff maintained an active presence at:

- Attending Community gatherings of various types
- Community Events
- Direct outreach in neighborhoods
- Working directly with families in their homes
- Coordinating in person with our partners











# **Our New Reality**



As the impact of COVID-19 began to be felt, GRID Alternatives realized the need to proactively shift operating and installation protocols in order to continue to provide solar in the communities we serve. GRID Alternatives took the following steps:

- Incorporated a COVID-19 Safety Task Force for the organization
- Followed mandated state and local COVID-19 prevention protocols including observance of lock-downs
- Incorporation of social distancing policies
- Retaining health consultants to inform GRID Alternatives about COVID-19

# So what Changed?

Utilizing GRID Alternatives COVID-19 Safety Task Force guidance the following protocols were instituted:

- Social distancing protocols
- Work from home
- Closing non-essential business offices



• Modifying the method of community and client contact

## **Precautions**

#### For Homeowners:

• Drop off and Electronic applications









For Our Team:

- Contactless site visit and installs
- Social Distancing while installing
- GRID assigned construction crew

# **COVID-19 Effects on TCC areas**

#### Outreach:

- Social Distancing is the new mantra
- Online focus in outreach activity
- Use of Docusign instituted
- Minimal contact with clients

#### **Construction:**

- Client contact minimized
- No entry into client homes
- Portable restrooms now used
- Installation follow-up now done via phone, internet, and other non contact means







## Will this Last Forever??

We hope not!!!

- GRID Alternatives will continue to incorporate work and service protocols based on health and safety
- No time periods are anticipated we will shift back to normal as soon as it is safe and the pandemic is under control
- We believe that once the pandemic environment shifts in a positive direction that our commitment to providing solar will continue well into the future

## How do I Qualify for Solar?

To determine if you or your family qualify for Solar please contact:

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