

Solar Powered Tucson Village Farm - Progress Report

Email

lezacarter@arizona.edu

Project Manager Name

Leza Carter

Requested Metrics

We have not yet begun collecting metrics as we are still in the pre-installation phase of our project.

Project Accomplishments

Since our last progress report, we have made significant progress, both on the UA side of things and with our contractor, Technicians for Sustainability (TFS). We have been assigned a TFS Project Manager, Rip Nicholson, who is taking steps to ensure that all the correct boxes are checked off prior to installation.

In March, we completed and submitted a project partnership form to TFS.

In April, Rip submitted the preliminary TEP application and Leza became an authorized signer with TEP.

TFS designers are working on the project drawings and have made two site visits.

The lead designer was to have reviewed the preliminary plans last week and, once approved, those will be sent to us for review.

Lastly, our CSF project facilitator, Diego Palmisano came for a tour of the farm accompanied by several other CSF members and Emily Haworth. They were able to see the future site of the solar array and gain a better understanding of how many young people are involved at the farm every day. As Diego will be graduating this month, he also introduced us to Kevin, our new project facilitator. Best of luck to you, Diego!

Next Steps

We were thrilled to receive the confirmation last month that TVF is still in the cue for a January installation of solar panels (in spite of the prior fiscal delays-see last report) . This timing is critical for us as it is the only month when we do not have daily programs at the farm, and the area will need to

be closed off for up to 3 weeks during installation.

Curriculum development will begin in the fall, positioning us to be ready to integrate solar education into our existing suite of farm-to-table and sustainability programming next spring.

Challenges Faced

Given the complicated nature of UA land ownership and permitting exemptions (vs. private residence), we ran into several short-lived roadblocks during the partnership application form with both TFS and TEP, but at the end of the day, we were able to circumvent any delays or stand stills with little trouble.

Project Support

We are not in need of project support at this time, but would not hesitate to reach out should we need assistance down the line.

Photo Link

Media/Links