



Community Relations

Solar Suitcase Project

Partners



Quick Facts



- In some places, the only other after-hour lighting options are candles, oil lamps and battery-operated devices, which are costly and non-renewable.

- Designed for daily use, each Solar Suitcase can light up a room and charge a cell phone for several hours.

- The 15 amp modular system is designed for expansion and can accommodate up to 200 watts of solar panels and a 100 amp-hour sealed battery.

Description

PG&E, We Share Solar and Green Tech are partnering to provide sustainable energy project opportunities for local high schools.

The utility's new education program, focused on solar and STEM education, provides students the opportunity to build a small portable photovoltaic lighting system known as a We Share Solar[®] Suitcase, share their commitment to sustainability and a chance to make a global impact.

Encouraging students to "act locally and think globally," PG&E's program inspires students to complete a local community service sustainable activity for a chance to become one of four participants selected for a humanitarian solar suitcase delivery mission to schools in Kenya with international charity Free the Children.

PG&E will provide 100 We Share Solar Suitcase kits to high schools throughout Northern and Central California.

Part 1 – STEM Education

Students and teachers are invited to build a Solar Suitcase, a portable power producing unit equipped with a solar panel, 12v battery, and a charge controller.

If your school is selected, a training workshop will be provided for teachers in addition to in-classroom assistance on the day of assembly, as needed.

Supplies are limited and selections will be based on an equal distribution of suitcases throughout the PG&E service area. Selections will take place in May. Suitcase training and assembly will take place from May-September 2015.

To request a Solar Suitcase, please visit : www.pge.com/solarsuitcase

Part 2 – Act Locally: Community Service

Schools who participate in the Solar Suitcase build are invited to submit a two minute video documenting a local environmental or sustainability project created to benefit their local community. Videos are due by end of September 2015.

Sample projects include:

- Creating a school composting program
- Building a school or community garden
- Creating a water reduction community education campaign

Part 3 – Think Globally: Suitcase Delivery

Winning schools will be contacted for a celebration event on campus, where one special individual from the team will be selected to travel abroad to deliver the Solar Suitcase to other students in need of a reliable energy source.

Trip will take place in December 2015.