

Resilient Power Funding Programs

2023 Annual Impact Report

CleanEnergyGroup

August 2024



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About Clean Energy Group

Clean Energy Group (CEG), a national nonprofit organization, works to provide innovative technical, economic and policy solutions to enable communities to participate equitably in the clean energy transition. Our vision is affordable, reliable, clean energy for all.

www.cleanegroup.org



2023 UPAL Community Resiliency Hub launch event in Petersburg, VA. UPAL was a TAF recipient in 2020. Credit: Queen Shabazz, UPAL

About the Resilient Power Project

Clean Energy Group’s Resilient Power Project (RPP) accelerates the equitable deployment of solar plus battery storage (solar+storage) technologies in historically marginalized and underserved communities.

www.cleanegroup.org/initiatives/resilient-power-project

CEG's funding programs would not be possible without the generous contributions from our philanthropic partners including The Kresge Foundation, The JPB Foundation, Connecticut Green Bank, and The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. CEG is grateful for their support.

Message from the Resilient Power Project Team

Dear partners, supporters, and friends,

Clean Energy Group's Resilient Power Funding Programs had a record setting year in 2023, with resilient power technical assistance, capacity building support, and funding provided to more organizations than ever before. Since the program's founding nearly 10 years ago, the Resilient Power Project (RPP) team remains inspired by our partner's growth and commitment to pursuing an equitable distribution of resilient power resources.

CEG's grant programs, consisting of the Technical Assistance Fund (TAF) and Resilient Power Leadership Initiative (RPLI), were founded to support resilient power development in communities that had the greatest need for renewable and resilient power infrastructure but were the least able to access it due to decades of disinvestment, environmental racism, and neglect by industry leaders. It has been exciting to see so many awardees make such great strides in advancing their resilient energy projects and programs. Supporting awardees as their efforts come to fruition, some after many years in development, continues to motivate the RPP team.

Significant progress has also been made this year in expanding our program's partners; specifically, the TAF network of mission-aligned engineers who provide feasibility assessments and technical assistance for TAF recipients. This year the TAF engineer referral program grew exponentially and is increasingly representative of the diverse communities we serve.

It is with much enthusiasm that we present the 2023 Impact Report for CEG's Resilient Power Funding Programs. The RPP Team is appreciative of our partners, colleagues and funders that have made 2023 a landmark year.

Marriele Mango, Abbe Ramanan, Anna Adamsson
Clean Energy Group - Resilient Power Project



Clean Energy Group's Resilient Power Funding Impacts for 2023

CEG's Resilient Power Funding Programs support local efforts to deploy solar+storage.

Clean Energy Group's **Technical Assistance Fund (TAF)** supports critical community-service providers to remain operational in the event of an outage by providing one-on-one technical support and early-stage funding to engage technical expertise to produce a solar+storage feasibility assessment for a community-serving facility. Learn more about CEG's TAF at www.cleanegroup.org/initiatives/technical-assistance-fund.

Clean Energy Group's **Resilient Power Leadership Initiative (RPLI)** provides awards of \$10,000 for one year to primarily BIPOC-led nonprofit organizations working in the areas of environmental justice, energy equity, and sustainability. RPLI recipients develop local resilient power awareness and implementation strategies in the communities they serve. Learn more about CEG's RPLI at www.cleanegroup.org/initiatives/resilient-power-leadership-initiative.

54 Community Facilities



17 States and Service Territories



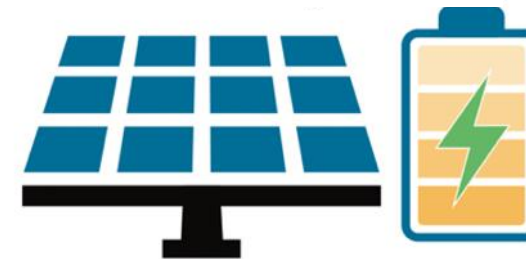
\$369,000 in Grant Awards



38 Community Service Partners



500 Affordable Housing Units Benefitted



20,000+ Community Members Benefitted



CEG's Commitment to Energy Equity

In 2023, over 40 percent of TAF and 100 percent of RPLI awardees were BIPOC-led organizations.

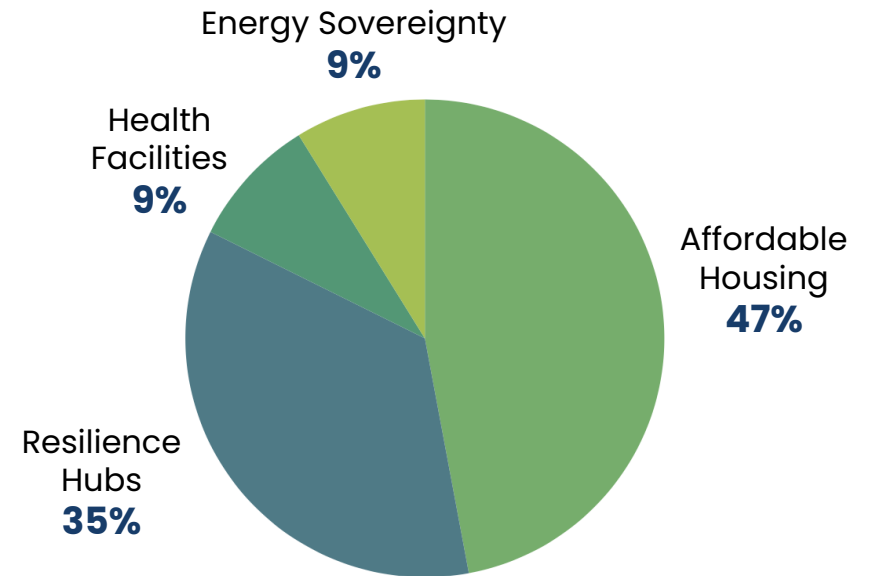
Since 2020, CEG has made a commitment to allocate 50 percent of annual TAF awards and 100 percent of RPLI funding to advance the work of organizations led by Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC). This is just one of many steps CEG is taking in its [commitments to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice](#).

Institutions that are staffed by and directly serve BIPOC community members face more barriers to accessing funding to pursue resilient power technologies. By prioritizing support for BIPOC-led organizations, CEG seeks to increase access to resilient power systems for those most impacted by the climate crisis, including projects led by Indigenous, Black, Latine, and Asian organizations. CEG is committed to expanding access to clean energy and combatting environmental racism.

CEG will continue to pursue outreach and engagement opportunities that build awareness of the TAF and RPLI to a diverse network of community-based institutions to ensure the benefits of resilient power are accessible to all.



2023 TAF Awards by Project Type



Building Partnerships with Local Leaders in Underserved Communities

Beyond CEG's BIPOC funding goal, all TAF and RPLI awards support distinctive community-led resilient power efforts. Awards have supported four types of project facilities, all of which serve under resourced communities: resilience hubs, affordable housing, health facilities, and projects that support energy sovereignty for Tribal Nations and Indigenous communities.

2023 TAF Awardees: Resilience Hubs

Clean Energy Group supported 12 resilience hubs with Technical Assistance Funding in 2023.

A resilience hub is a community-serving facility that has been designed to support nearby community members during and after times of crisis, such as severe weather events and extended power outages, by maintaining access to essential services that may include device charging, temperature regulation, and resource distribution. Resilience hubs that include backup power to cooling systems may also serve as a cooling center during dangerously hot days.



Powering critical services for at least 11,000 people during severe weather and grid outages



\$127,000 invested for energy resilience at BIPOC-led community organizations

Resilience Hubs

State	Project Name	Project Type	Community Members Served
CT	Swift Factory	Community center	Not disclosed
FL	Christ the King Episcopal Church	Religious institution	2,000+ community members
GA	New Bethel AME Church	Religious institution	1,000+ community members
GA	Turner Chapel AME Church	Religious institution	2,000+ community members
GA	Prospect AME Church	Religious institution	500+ community members
MA	Northampton Resilience Hub	Municipal	2,000+ community members
MA	Perkins Community Center	Municipal	500+ community members
MI	Community Treehouse Center	Shelter for families, foster care youth	1,000+ community members
OK	Oklahomans for Equality	LGBTQ+ center	2,000+ community members
PR	Maricao Town Center	Town center	Not disclosed
RI	Joslin Center	Municipal	500+ community members
TX	Texas Gulf Coast Area Labor Federation	Union hall	Not disclosed

A.B. Ford Community Center

a Solar+Storage Resilience Hub in Detroit

Detroit's Jefferson Chalmers neighborhood, a historic community known for its citizen activism and engagement, sits along the Detroit River. Thirty-nine percent of residents live below the poverty line and, as of 2021, 74 percent of residents are Black. After five damaging floods in 10 years, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designated the neighborhood as a flood zone in 2021. Community leaders determined that establishing a resilience hub was necessary to provide essential services to vulnerable residents during future floods and power outages.

In 2020, CEG awarded a TAF to the City of Detroit to conduct a solar+storage feasibility assessment at a vacant building that would eventually become the A.B. Ford Community Center, a centrally located community facility which would provide programming to neighborhood residents. The solar+storage system was installed in 2023 and consists of 70 kilowatts of rooftop solar and a 110-kilowatt, 220 kilowatt-hour lithium-iron-phosphate battery system. In the event of an outage, the neighborhood can now rely on the community center to distribute food and safe drinking water, create access to heated or

air-conditioned spaces during winter storms or summer heatwaves, and provide a place to charge their phones, refrigerate medication, and gather as a community with the resilient power.

The City of Detroit received a grant from the General Motors Climate Equity Fund to cover the entire \$669,000 cost of the system, which is anticipated to save the community center between 15 to 20 percent on its monthly electric bills.



Project partners from the City of Detroit and Elevate. Credit: CEG

"The City of Detroit – Office of Sustainability was able to advance the concept of resilient energy for the new A.B. Ford Community Center, in large part thanks to the solar feasibility study provided through Clean Energy Group's Technical Assistance Fund. The team provided expert guidance that helped us make informed decisions on system sizing and supported us with technical and financial viability for the project."



MARIA GALARZA

Deputy Director, Office of Sustainability, City of Detroit

2023 TAF Awardees: Energy Sovereignty

In 2023, CEG's Technical Assistance Fund supported three Indigenous communities and Native Nations in achieving energy sovereignty.

For decades, many Tribal Nations have dealt with insufficient energy infrastructure that cannot serve the needs of their communities. For example, 32 percent of homes on the Navajo Nation lack access to grid powered electricity. Even when Native homes are grid-connected, they experience more frequent power outages. Grid vulnerability paired with the remote location of communities can result in longer power restoration timelines for many Native households.

Indigenous communities that install solar and battery storage technologies can localize their community's energy production and make decisions about energy security and affordability that reflect their community's needs and goals.



\$25,000 to support energy sovereignty for Indigenous communities and Native Nations



Energy security and affordability for Tribal Communities

Indigenous Communities and Native Nations

State	Organization	Project Type
HI	Waimea Nui CDC	Affordable housing
OR	Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Suislaw Indians	Tribal buildings
CA	Yurok Indian Housing Authority	Affordable housing



Navajo Nation residents install solar+storage for their off-grid home after receiving a TAF in 2021. Credit: JPHB, TAF engineering partner

Waimea Nui CDC

Solar+Storage for Native Hawaiian Homes

Grantee Spotlight: Native Hawaiian Led Solar+Storage Development in Hawai'i

Michael Hodson, founder of the Native Hawaiian nonprofit Waimea Nui CDC, had one goal in mind when reaching out to CEG in the summer of 2023: technical support to advance solar+storage for 100 rural Native Hawaiian homes. Power outages were occurring more frequently, coinciding with an increase in severe weather, and rural households were facing long-roads to power restoration. Additionally, solar+storage could help to mitigate the high energy burdens shouldered by these residents. Michael required technical support to develop a design for the solar+storage systems. The analysis would also be invaluable in raising necessary funding support with potential funders and financing partners.

Waimea Nui CDC chose to engage an engineering partner local to Hawaii, [Shake Energy Collaborative](#), to conduct a solar+storage feasibility assessment. Shake Energy Collaborative is a woman-led organization that emphasizes meaningful community engagement and has deep knowledge of Hawaii's unique solar+storage landscape. What started as a partnership for one project can now grow into a long-lasting relationship between Clean Energy Group and local engineer experts.



SHAKE ENERGY COLLABORATIVE

Community-designed renewable energy

Partner Spotlight

Technical Assistance for Resilient Communities

The Washington State Department of Commerce consulted with Clean Energy Group in advance of launching the state's own resilient power technical assistance fund. The program, "[Solar plus Storage for Resilient Communities](#)," awarded its first grants in 2023 to support both the pre-development planning and design of resilient power systems and its installation. In its inaugural year, the program awarded over \$35 million to communities for project predevelopment support and implementation funding, including 44 feasibility studies since May 2023. The program supports energy resilience at community buildings, including schools, community centers, libraries, and other buildings owned by local, state, Tribal governments, and nonprofits in Washington. The program is supported with funding from [Washington's Climate Commitment Act](#). The CCA supports Washington's climate action efforts by putting cap-and-invest dollars to work reducing climate pollution, creating jobs, and improving public health.

There is more demand from communities for early-stage technical support now than ever before. CEG is committed to supporting these communities both through the Technical Assistance Fund and by helping to build capacity within other mission-aligned technical assistance programs, like the WA Department of Commerce's Solar Plus Storage for Resilient Communities program.

Solar plus Storage for Resilient Communities

The Solar plus Storage for Resilient Communities program funds solar and battery back-up power so community buildings can provide essential services when the power goes out. Grants support installation as well as planning work for solar plus storage systems at community buildings, including schools, community centers, libraries, and other buildings owned by local, state, tribal governments and non-profits in Washington. Technical assistance opportunities help communities prepare to apply for future grant funding opportunities. This program is now included in the [Clean Energy Grant Programs funding opportunities](#) available for tribes, Community Decarbonization Grants, and a general solicitation for clean energy projects. **The three solicitations will be the primary opportunity to apply for these funds in the 2023-2025 biennium.**



Technical Assistance

Commerce is offering two technical assistance opportunities at no cost to a limited number of communities through the Solar plus Storage for Resilient Communities program. This assistance will position communities to apply for future funding through Commerce's Solar plus Storage for Resilient Communities grant program. Commerce will prioritize requests from rural, tribal, and other communities most vulnerable to the impacts from power outages and

Contact

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Resources

Clean Energy Group and the Washington State Department of Commerce hosted a webinar in May 2024, "[Prioritizing Equity in Program Development: How to Build a Resilient Power Technical Assistance Fund](#)."

2023 TAF Awardees: Health Care

In 2023, CEG awarded technical assistance funding to three health care facilities.

For people who depend on electricity to power medical equipment or to refrigerate temperature-sensitive medications, even short power outages can be a matter of life or death.

Community health centers serve the most vulnerable residents, including low-income people, the uninsured, residents of public housing, and veterans, and they are often those patients' only access to medical care. Unlike hospitals, health centers are not federally required to have access to a backup power system, and power outages threaten their ability to safely open and provide critical health services. Solar+storage can keep the doors open for the clinic's patients.



\$27,500 awarded to support community health providers



Over **4,000 people** will have **reliable access to healthcare services** during grid outages

Health Care

State	Healthcare Facilities	Project Type
CA	Asian Americans for Community Involvement Health Clinic	Health clinic
FL	Jackson Health Systems	Hospital
UT	Maliheh Free Clinic	Health clinic



Solar array installed at CrescentCare health clinic in New Orleans, Louisiana. Credit: Together New Orleans.

2023 TAF Awardees: Affordable Housing

In 2023, CEG's Technical Assistance Fund supported 16 affordable housing providers, representing 24 facilities.

Multifamily housing residents and renters have the least access to clean energy and resilient power, yet they have the greatest need for cost savings and energy resilience. CEG is building partnerships with affordable housing developers across the country, in a unique and growing effort to bring the benefits of resilient power to affordable housing residents.

Solar+storage can provide reliable backup power to common areas, allowing residents to have access to outlets for charging cellphones and medical equipment, access to heating and cooling, and contact with affordable housing staff for emergency updates and support. The economic opportunities provided through solar+storage, such as utility bill savings, can reduce the energy burden of residents and the affordable housing provider, or even be reinvested into resident programming.



\$137,000 awarded
to affordable housing
providers



**Powering critical
services for 510 units**
of affordable housing

State	Project Name	Project Type	Residents supported
CA	Asian Americans for Community Involvement Residential Shelter	Domestic violence shelter	2,000+ community members
CT	Affordable Homeownership NHSNH	Multifamily	8 units
CT	Bantam Falls	Multifamily	36 units
CT	Button Hill Senior Affordable Housing	Multifamily	24 units
CT	Capewell Lofts	Multifamily	72 units
CT	Kingsway at Truman Park	Multifamily	30 units
CT	La Puerta	Multifamily	50 units
CT	Mark Twain Congregate Living Center	Multifamily	82 units
CT	Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven	Multifamily	8 units
CT	North Hartford Housing Trust - Bethel	Multifamily	6 units
CT	North Hartford Housing Trust - Pliny	Multifamily	6 units
CT	Residences at the Park	Multifamily	53 units
CT	Wells Run	Multifamily	30 units
MA	Fitchburg Arts	Multifamily	50+ units
TN	Be a Helping Hand	Single family	4 units
PA	Standard on the Fifth	Multifamily	51 units



Partner Spotlight Technical Assistance for Affordable Housing

This year, Clean Energy Group's partnership with the Connecticut Green Bank resulted in 12 TAF projects - over one third of CEG's total awards – with Connecticut affordable housing providers, representing over 300 units of housing for low- and very-low-income tenants. CEG serves as the technical partner of the Green Bank to build resilient power awareness for affordable housing providers, including how resilient power can support public health in the event of an outage and discussing incentive programs like the Connecticut Energy Storage Solutions program, one of the most equitable programs to expand energy storage in the country.

"The Green Bank is committed to delivering the benefits of the green economy, including grid resilience and improved health outcomes, to all residents, especially those in vulnerable communities. We are proud to work with CEG, the Connecticut Insurance Department, Operation Fuel, and Yale to provide this technical assistance to owners and developers of affordable multifamily properties to help them access the environmental and financial impacts of solar plus storage."

BRYAN GARCIA, President and CEO, [Connecticut Green Bank](#)

Technical Assistance Fund Grantee Spotlight



"Affordable housing providers are increasingly encouraged to implement green energy initiatives, but oftentimes have limited resources to conduct the initial due diligence that is required to make prudent decisions on capital expenses related to these types of projects. The availability of the Technical Assistance Fund has helped our organization evaluate the emerging opportunity to install solar and storage at our three affordable senior housing locations."

Throughout the process, the CEG and American Microgrid Solutions teams have been an invaluable resource to help our team understand not only the economic benefits of solar and storage, but the potential benefit to the residents who Kingsway Group services."

JAMIE KENNEDY, CEO
[Kingsway Group](#)



Resilient Power Leadership Initiative Year-in-Review

Resilient Power Leadership Initiative: Capacity Building for Community Organizations

By working with communities through the Technical Assistance Fund, Clean Energy Group identified a need for flexible funding for communities to build resilient power internal capacity. The Resilient Power Leadership Initiative (RPLI) aims to address this capacity gap by helping to seed long-term, community-led programs that further advance energy equity and environmental justice. RPLI funding recipients use the awards to develop local resilient power awareness and implementation strategies in the communities they serve. Through the one-year grant term, awardees meet with CEG quarterly to discuss progress, goals for the next quarter, and how CEG can support next steps.

2023 Resilient Power Leadership Initiative Awardees

State	Organization	Capacity-Building Focus
MD	Baltimore Green Justice Workers	Awareness Building
PR	Community Through Colors	Establishing an Electric Cooperative
SC	Sustaining Way	Workforce Development
TN	Be a Helping Hand	Workforce Development



[Feed the Second Line](#), which received a RPLI award in 2022 to build capacity for its GET LIT STAY LIT program, installed a solar+ storage system at a New Orleans restaurant, Queen Trini Lisa. Feed the Second Line completed the one-year grant period in December 2023. Credit: Katie Sikora

Resilient Power Leadership Initiative Grantee Spotlight

A Puerto Rican Community Builds Energy Democracy through an Electric Cooperative

Community Through Colors (CTC), a nonprofit based on the island of Vieques off the coast of Puerto Rico, first received predevelopment support through Clean Energy Group's Technical Assistance Fund in 2019. With this early-stage assistance, the nonprofit was able to build over 16 solar+storage systems at critical community facilities. In developing these projects, CTC came to realize that establishing a community-owned electric cooperative could further the organization's mission to provide clean, reliable and cost-effective electricity to community members by localizing the production and management of energy resources.

By establishing an electric cooperative, CTC can extend one of the key benefits of solar and battery storage – reducing the resident's electricity bills – to those residing in homes not suitable for solar, such as those with tree cover or poor roof condition. In Vieques, where over half the population falls under the poverty line (per the 2020 Census), these savings could greatly reduce a households energy burden.

CTC shared their vision for a co-op with CEG in 2023. This conversation evolved into a RPLI award for \$10,000, which would support the Energy Cooperative's initial legal fees and establishing the Cooperative's internal structures and staffing. In December 2023, six months after receiving the RPLI award, CTC received approval to establish the Vieques Energy Cooperative as an official entity. CTC is currently working to further build the Energy Cooperative's capacity and realizing the community's energy goals.



Rooftop solar (left), battery storage (right) in Vieques, PR. Credit: Community Through Colors

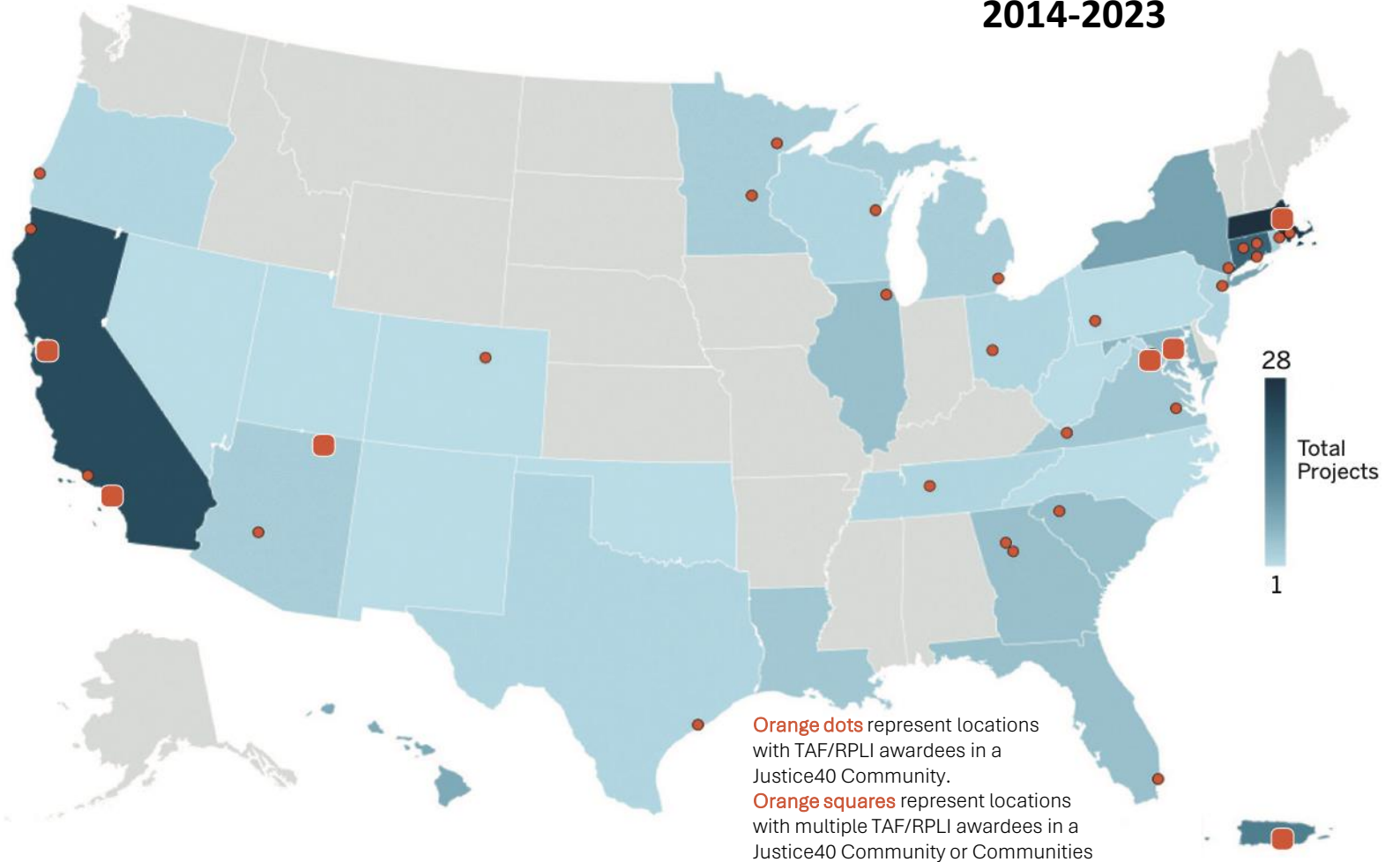
Resilient Power Funding Program Impact, 2014 – 2023

The success of CEG’s Resilient Power Funding Program in 2023 is built upon nearly a decade of foundational work establishing topical expertise and growing a broad alliance of community and technical partners.

The result is over **\$1.7 million** in funding and tailored technical support provided to **over 150 community-serving organizations** since 2014. Solar and battery storage assessments have been conducted on **309 facilities** across **32 states and territories** and in **50 Justice40 communities**.* **Sixty facilities have installed solar and/or battery storage**, with dozens more projects under development.

*Justice40 communities include those considered "disadvantaged" by the [Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool](#), which considers the environmental and socioeconomic burdens experienced by communities, among other factors. The federal government set a goal to direct 40 percent of the overall benefits of federal investment to flow to disadvantaged Justice40 communities.

TAF & RPLI Award Recipients in Justice 40 Communities 2014-2023



Help Us Build More Resilient Communities

CEG's Resilient Power Funding Programs have a ripple effect: every dollar spent leverages \$127 in external project capital.*

Despite the cost effectiveness of our programs, CEG cannot meet the growing demand for our resilient power funding programs, causing us to waitlist eligible applicants.

A \$100 donation to CEG's Resilient Power Funding Programs leverages over \$12,000 in external capital, supporting the development of clean, resilient power for communities on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

Please visit www.cleangroup.org/donate to learn more about joining the resilient power movement.

DONATE



* This figure is an average based on 32 facilities that installed solar and/or battery storage and shared their total installation costs with CEG. This does not include completed projects that received donated materials or labor or that did not report their total costs.

[**DONATE**](#)

