



## The Social Impact of Renewable Energy Projects: Classrooms to Careers

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**enel**  
Green Power

**Imagine you're twelve years old. What would be the best way to pique your interest in science and engineering? Drones might be a great place to start.**

Drones are vital to the Operations and Maintenance teams at Enel Green Power. Used for remote inspection at [wind](#) and [solar](#) projects, they help to identify potential equipment failures before the failure actually occurs. Giving kids hands-on experience with drones is just one of the ways Enel Green Power takes a community-first approach to our renewable energy business. By executing an innovative business strategy called Creating Shared Value (CSV), Enel nurtures minds and bodies. Enel adopted Creating Shared Value as a business strategy in 2012, and introduced the approach to North America in 2015. Through CSV, Enel has shared millions of dollars with the communities where our renewable energy projects are located.

As organizations fulfill their commitments to cut greenhouse gas emissions, they are increasingly seeking out renewable energy. But companies are realizing they can get even more for their money. At Enel, corporations are increasingly eager to partner on renewable energy projects because of CSV and its positive impact on communities. We actively encourage our partners to collaborate with us on community programs. By working together and focusing our investments, we can have the greatest social impact.

Several CSV project categories are contributing to the well-being of communities in North America. These include:

- Education
- Resilient and sustainable communities
- Economic development
- Civil infrastructure improvements
- Environment
- Climate and social equity
- Community well-being, recreation and cultural events

The case studies highlighted in this brief focus on Enel's classrooms-to-careers educational initiatives.



## Creating Shared Value

Since healthy and resilient communities are the backbone of long-term shared value creation, Enel puts communities first in everything it does. The company's Creating Shared Value (CSV) approach to doing business allows it to combine competitiveness and the needs of the community, ensuring projects generate positive impacts for both the company and local stakeholders. Wherever Enel operates, it partners with local communities and organizations to contribute to local development. Enel has more than a hundred community partners across 21 U.S. states and the Canadian provinces of Alberta and Ontario. In 2021, Enel invested \$1.4 million in 236 CSV projects that benefitted 224,000 people in North America.

We live and work in the same communities as our projects and partners, and when seeking to develop new economic activity and jobs in a local community, we are committed to understanding their needs and opportunities to establish new partnerships, projects and initiatives that generate lasting impact. Enel values being a good neighbor and strives to become a trusted community partner. We involve local stakeholders in a shared value creation plan that first listens, then responds to the needs of the community, building on principles of inclusiveness and equity to generate a measurable impact for landowners, local stakeholders and the community at large.

This collaborative approach creates positive, long-term impact in the communities where we live and work. You can see more examples of Creating Shared Value in action around the world by scanning the [QR code](#) on the last page.

## K-12 STEM Programs

Enel provides support and funding for K-12 schools all over North America. Programs include environmental and STEM education, robotics, coding, drones and other hands-on activities to engage elementary, middle and high school students in innovative technologies. Beyond the school day, Enel invests in environmental and STEM education, renewable energy programming, and after-school and local library programs. As part of its educational initiatives, and aligned with its commitment to innovation, Enel sponsors wind farm design, drone camps and competitions for school and college students. Tours of Enel facilities give future leaders a behind-the-scenes look at engineering as a terrific career choice that can change the world.

Enel supports and funds a number of K-12 educational programs, including those highlighted below.

### Drone Camp

Enel's sponsorship of [Tioga Drone Camp](#) is building on the company's successful partnership with the [Tioga Economic Development Corporation](#) and [Lake Region State College](#) in North Dakota. In its sixth year, this annual two-day event brings two hundred kids in grades 5-12 from around the region to experience hands-on development of their own drone and educational workshops in a range of technologies. The camp's Lindahl Wind Farm setting gives participants the opportunity to learn how Enel uses technology to monitor and maintain its operations.

### Energy Express

[West Virginia University's Energy Express](#) is an award-winning, six-week summer reading and nutrition program for children living in the state's rural and low-income communities. Aligning with Enel's commitment to create a bright future for all, the program improves access to nutritious meals and educational materials. Serving students entering grades 1-6, the program allows more than 3,000 children statewide to gain and maintain reading levels during the summer through literacy programming embedded in art, drama and vocabulary. Two meals per day are provided to participants, helping to ensure nutritional support even after the school year comes to an end.

## KidWind

[KidWind](#) is an educational curriculum that promotes wind energy education through experiential workshops in schools. Students are exposed to all facets of wind energy and learn to design, build and test miniature wind turbines with support from coaches and mentors. Enel's support has been used for the purchase of learning and instructional materials and sponsorship toward [regional and statewide KidWind Challenges](#), with its strategic partner [Kansas Energy Program](#).

## What do kids learn about drones?

Enel supports a program at Chittenango High in New York to bring renewable energy education into the classroom with interactive disciplines such as robotics and drone technology. The [DroneBlocks](#) educational platform teaches STEM and real-world application of drone technology through apps, drone coding curriculum, simulators and professional development. The DroneBlocks curriculum creates opportunities for students of all ages to learn Blockly, Python, OpenCV, Node.js and JavaScript by coding autonomous missions in the classroom using the Tello drone.



# Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Enel supports a number of initiatives focused on diversity, equity and inclusion – with a specific focus on Indigenous populations, women and people with disabilities – to ensure communities where the company operates benefit widely from a just energy transition. Examples include:

- The Girls in STEM welding team at Rush Springs school district in Oklahoma
- Wind technician training for Indigenous learners in Tarkio, Missouri
- A recycling project with the 4Rkids Foundation that will create 14 jobs for disadvantaged and disabled adults
- Solar technician training at White Earth Nation Tribal College in Mahnomon, Minnesota
- Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day at the University of Nevada–Reno
- After-school STEM program and drone training for the Stillwater Paiute Tribe in Nevada

## Agrivoltaics in Minnesota

Partnering with the Minnesota Rural Renewable Energy Alliance (RREAL), Solar Grown and the Pollinator Friendly Alliance, Enel is investing in an immersive and interactive educational experience that teaches students about the benefits of agriculture, solar and other renewable energies. Students use LEGO bricks to experiment and learn about how science, technology, engineering and math go into building and operating a renewable energy plant.



## Girls in STEM

In Oklahoma, Enel is supporting the Rush Springs school district's Girls in STEM Welding Team, one of Enel's many projects where students learn life skills and teamwork while supporting the local community. The team is building a recycling trailer to use at Enel Green Power project sites, allowing Enel to meet its sustainability goals while also providing STEM learning and job skills.



## College and Beyond

The seeds of renewable energy careers can grow beyond K-12 by shaping college curricula, providing scholarships and internships, and helping the existing workforce transition to renewables. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics anticipates that renewable energy will be one of the [fastest-growing job sectors through 2030](#). The need to find, train and grow talent for the renewable energy sector has never been greater. Enel supports a number of initiatives beyond high school for college students and adults in career transition. A few are highlighted below.

### Wind Tech Training for Indigenous Learners

In Alberta, Enel is supporting the Lethbridge Wind Tech training program to encourage interest in clean energy careers among Indigenous learners of all ages. Through a partnership with [Lethbridge College and its Wind Turbine Technician](#) (WTT) program, the five-year project provides “experiential learning days” for students of Piikani Secondary School, other Livingstone Range School Division institutions and Piikani Nation mature learners. Piikani Nation youth have opportunities including safety training, climbing a wind turbine and building miniature working wind turbines. The program harnesses virtual reality (VR) to give students the chance to “stand” on top of a wind turbine and take other facility tours through VR headsets donated by Enel Green Power. Scholarships are available for Piikani Nation, Indigenous and non-Indigenous students participating in the WTT program.

### Wind Tech Program at Tarkio Tech

The [White Cloud](#) and Rock Creek wind projects are located in Tarkio, Missouri, home to Tarkio Tech. Enel provides scholarships and curriculum guidance to Tarkio Tech’s [wind technician program](#), creating a grow-your-own program customized to build Enel’s talent pipeline. Enel also will underwrite travel expenses for Tarkio Tech instructors to visit other technical programs in Texas, North Dakota and Oklahoma to share best practices for training and curriculum.

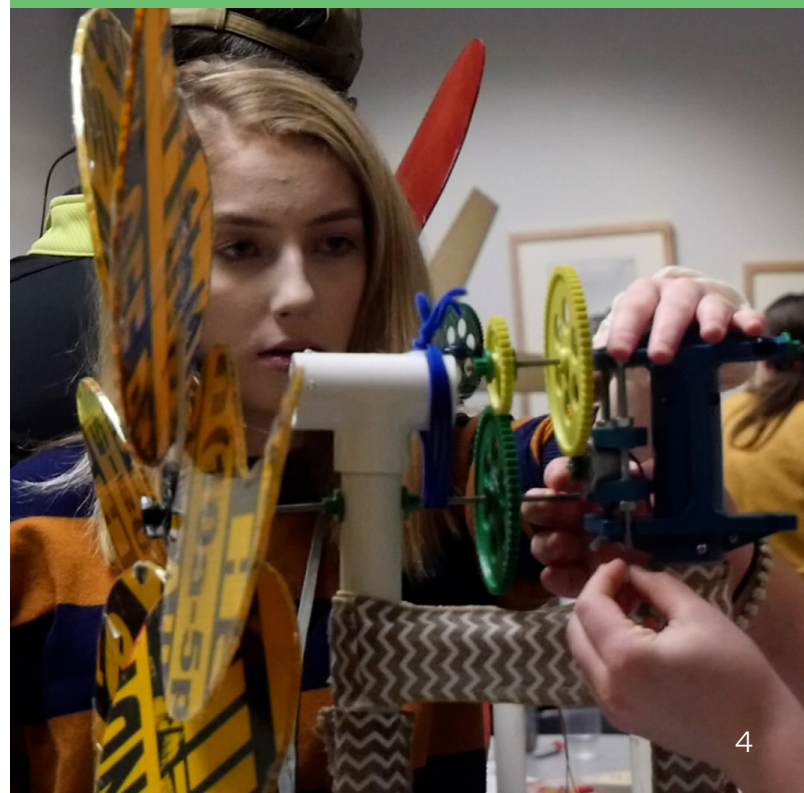
## KidWind Drone Camp

In partnership with KidWind, drone camps offer an educational workshop to learn classroom and hands-on application of drone technology. Scholarships are available to local displaced oil and gas workers to retrain at Texas State Technical College for drone technology and pursue an FAA drone license. Additional support is available for students who are non-English speaking, hearing disabled or lack the resources to participate. Camps are planned for fall 2022.

## Re-skilling the workforce

Re-skilling those in career transition is critical – for individuals and for Enel Green Power’s talent pipeline. We’ve partnered with [Adept-ID](#) to use machine learning to re-skill the oil and gas workforce and expand Enel Green Power’s talent sourcing strategies to create new talent pools for future hiring needs.

Enel is also investing in [TIOGA Community Economic Development](#). This \$1 million industry-supported technical skills grant is matched with funding from the state of North Dakota. Enel’s contribution will support unmanned aerial systems (UAS) training and re-skilling for adult learners in the oil and gas community.



## White Earth Nation – Indigenous Workforce Development

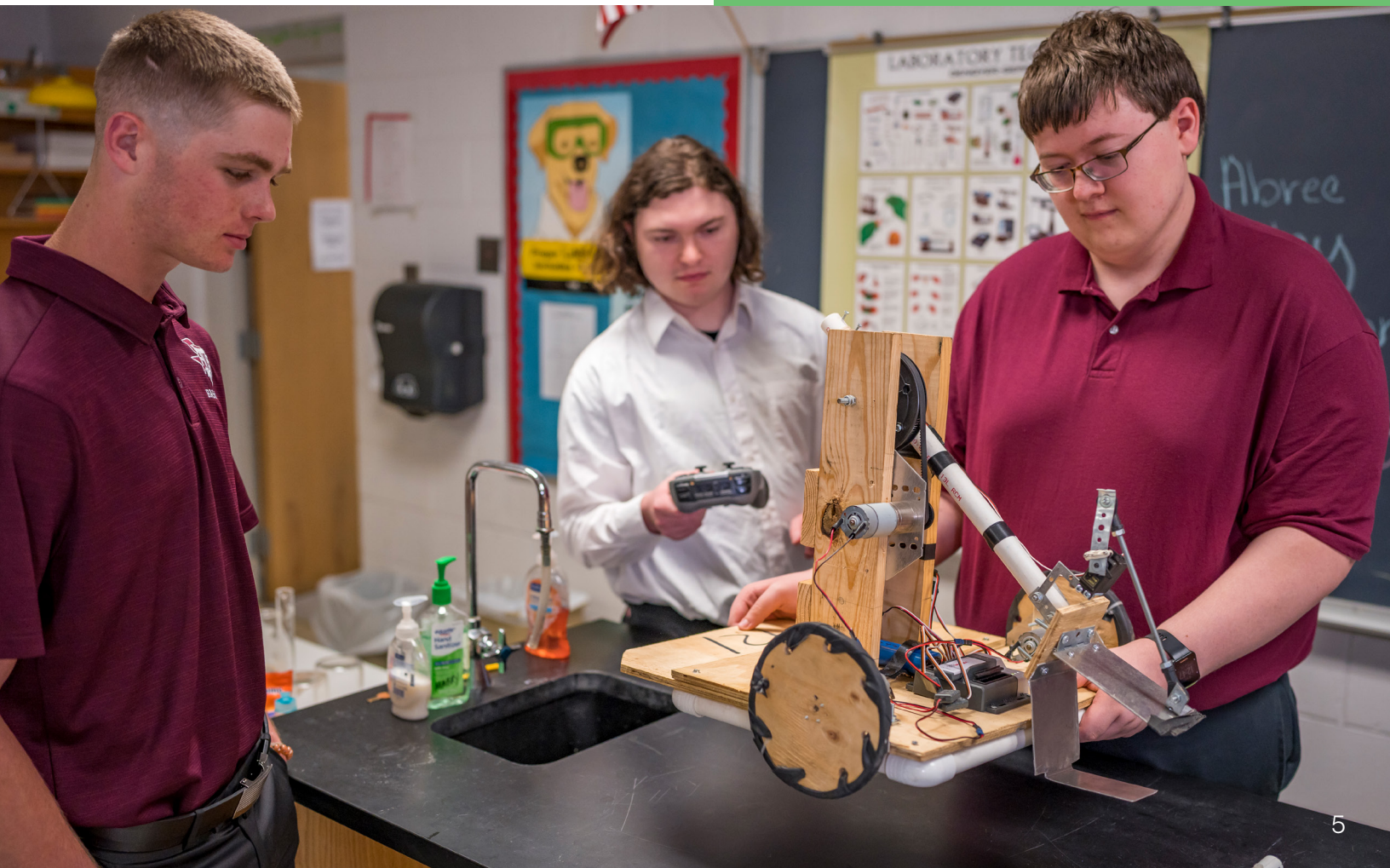
Enel Green Power is supporting workforce training and educational opportunities with the White Earth Band of Ojibwe Nation in Minnesota and the Rural Renewable Energy Alliance (RREAL). The programs are bringing solar education, workforce development and community solar greenhouses to rural and disadvantaged Indigenous communities. Enel is supporting several initiatives. First is RREAL's K-8 curriculum and a solar curriculum for regional high school students to be implemented in 2022. A North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP)-accredited solar program for residential, commercial and utility scale solar is also in development at the [White Earth Tribal and Community College](#) (WETCC) in Mahanomen, Minnesota. Enel is establishing a pipeline of on-the-job training solar projects on the White Earth Reservation and with rural habitat affiliates. Additionally, Enel is integrating solar education and workforce development with the University of Minnesota's sustainable agriculture program at WETCC by building a 4,000-square-foot cold climate, solar-powered greenhouse in 2022, thereby fusing agriculture and solar curricula.

## Northern Oklahoma College

Enel is in the second year of a partnership with [Northern Oklahoma College](#) (NOC) to launch a new [wind degree program](#). Enel currently operates three wind farms in communities near NOC's Enid and Tonkawa campuses. NOC career fairs and Enel's financial support for lab equipment and adjunct faculty for the wind degree provide embedded mentorship opportunities for students and talent development for [Enel's future workforce needs](#).

## Engineering scholarship programs

Enel provides assistance and scholarships for students at a number of colleges. For example, in 2022, [Enel formed a partnership with Texas State Technical College](#) (TSTC) to hire two interns for engineering and construction teams. At Lake Region State College in North Dakota, Enel has an ongoing five-year partnership to provide scholarships in the [Wind Energy Program](#).



# What's next?

If you'd like to discuss how to address your company's carbon emissions with renewable energy solutions that will also have maximum social impact, please reach out to [commercial@enel.com](mailto:commercial@enel.com). To get up to speed on Enel's solutions, read our white paper [Is the VPPA the Best Path to Achieving Your Sustainability Goals?](#) If you are looking to address your organization's Scope 3 emissions, read our [Decarbonizing Supply Chains: Collaboration and Renewable Energy Strategies](#) guide. Curious about the best way to promote your sustainability claims? See our [Essential Guide to Marketing Your Company's Renewable Energy Achievements](#). To learn more about Enel, check out our [sustainability initiatives](#) and some of our [projects](#).

To get more industry insights and expert analysis of the latest trends in the renewable energy, sustainability and ESG worlds, [subscribe to our newsletter](#).

Find out more about Enel's Creating Shared Value initiatives by scanning the QR code:



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