



Mitsubishi Electric Brings Solar-powered Holiday Cheer to Southern California Family

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On a sunny December day [Mitsubishi Electric and Electronics USA](#) (Mitsubishi Electric), a manufacturer of solar cells and modules, dispatched a volunteer crew of employees to bring the power of the Sun to a local family in need.

Mitsubishi Electric, whose US headquarters is based in Orange County, California, sponsored the installation of a 2.1kW solar electric system, which will cover 96 percent of the family's electricity needs, and save more than \$10,000 on their electric bills over the life of the system. The clean energy generated by the solar modules will prevent almost 70 tons of greenhouse gas emissions, the equivalent of planting 200 trees, or taking 12 cars off the road.



The installation in Santa Ana was coordinated through GRID Alternatives, a non-profit organization that works with volunteers to install solar electric systems for low-income homeowners statewide.

Homeowner Esteban Fuentes assisted in the installation. In the currently challenging economic climate, Mr. Fuentes and his wife, Marisela, have been managing their monthly expenses carefully, while still providing the best possible home for their two children, one of whom has a disability. The family was an ideal candidate for a Mitsubishi Electric-sponsored installation, as helping young people with disabilities is the focus of the [Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation](#), which supported the solar work day.

“The Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation encourages our employees to contribute their time and talent to strengthen their local communities,” said Kevin Webb, Foundation director. “This project brought together our company’s commitment to clean energy with our commitment to youth with disabilities.”

“Our employees are motivated to make a positive impact in our community,” said Gina Heng, VP and general manager of Mitsubishi Electric’s Solar Photovoltaic Division, and herself an installation participant. “We are delighted to support this project, which will deliver environmental and economic benefits for decades.”

“Every GRID Alternatives project weaves together immediate economic relief, green jobs, workforce development, and long term environmental sustainability with a tangible result: a fully functioning solar electric system that will reduce a homeowner’s energy costs by an average of 80 percent and reduce greenhouse gases,” said Susie Chang, regional director of GRID Alternatives of Greater Los Angeles. “The philanthropic and volunteer support of companies like Mitsubishi Electric helps us to bring the benefits of solar to the families who need it the most.”

Mr. Fuentes expressed his gratitude for the volunteer team that helped make his solar electric system possible. “Thank you to Mitsubishi Electric for sponsoring our solar installation, helping our family’s financial life and helping the environment,” he said. “We will use the money saved by going solar to pay for our son’s therapy.”

About Mitsubishi Electric & Electronics USA’s Photovoltaic Division

Mitsubishi Electric is one of the world’s largest manufacturers and providers of solar power technology. The company’s eco-friendly photovoltaic systems are used throughout the world to bring clean, reliable energy to residences, businesses, power generation plants, schools, factories and more. Mitsubishi Electric photovoltaic panels are marketed by Mitsubishi Electric & Electronics USA, Inc., and sold through approved distributors and installers. To learn more please visit www.MitsubishiElectricSolar.com or call 714.220.2500.

About the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation

The Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation, based in the Washington, DC area, was established in 1991 by Mitsubishi Electric Corporation of Japan and the Mitsubishi Electric U.S. companies, which produce, sell and distribute a wide range of consumer, industrial, commercial and professional electronics products. With an initial endowment of \$15 million, the Foundation has contributed more than \$10 million to organizations assisting young people with disabilities to lead fuller and more productive lives. For more information please visit www.meaf.org.

About GRID Alternatives

GRID Alternatives is a non-profit solar installer that trains and leads teams of volunteers and job trainees to install solar electric systems for low-income families throughout California. The mission of GRID Alternatives is to empower communities in need by providing renewable energy and energy efficiency services, equipment and training. Since 2004, GRID Alternatives has installed over 1,500 solar electric systems and provided hands-on solar installation training for 8,000 community members statewide. These systems represent 4 MW of generating capacity, which translates to almost \$40 million in energy cost savings over the systems’ projected life spans, while preventing approximately 130,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions. GRID Alternatives also manages the Single-family Affordable Solar Homes (SASH) Program, part of the California Solar Initiative that is funded by California ratepayers under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). For more information, please visit www.gridalternatives.org.

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