



CASE STUDY: Menikānaehkem Inc. "Energy Sovereignty"



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

Location: Gresham, WI

Commissioned: March 2020

DC Capacity: 11.84 kW

AC Nameplate: 9.28 kW AC rated
(32 microinverters x .29 kW each)

Expected Performance (AC):
11,206 kWh/year

Array Tilt and Azimuth:
30 degrees and 180

Racking: (1) Unirac GFT ground
mount racking with concrete
footings

Modules: (32) Philadelphia Solar
PV Modules (370W) (Solar for Good
donation)

Inverter: (32) Enphase IQ7 Plus
Microinverters

Solar Installer: Eland Electric
Corporation

Contact Information:

Menikānaehkem, Inc.
8866 County Road G
Gresham, WI 54128
menomineerebuilders.org

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Through its Energy Sovereignty project, Menikānaehkem, Inc. installed a 11.84 kW solar PV system at its community center, located on an 80-acre farm at the edge of the Menominee reservation. This installation increases Menikānaehkem's financial stability and enables it to continue rebuilding their community through connecting to the original land, language, and lineage of their ancestors.

Menikānaehkem works to support their local Indigenous community by advocating for self-sufficiency as a way to aid the population's homeless and impoverished. The community center serves several purposes. Some of these include functioning as an educational establishment to pass on cultural practices and providing support for community members in need. Menikānaehkem has hosted youth wellness camps, protected the Menominee River, built a teaching lodge, formed strong partnerships with community wellness agencies, planted and harvested organic foods, and hosted pre-contact feasts in its efforts to reconnect the people to their land and culture. Their investment in a solar array will provide educational opportunities to students interested in entering the renewable energy field, as well as serve as a test site to show how the community may be able to pursue moves toward total energy sovereignty.

Menikānaehkem has been fully dependent on outside utilities for their energy prior to their array installation, using around 11,400 kWh of energy per year in the community center. In their move for energy sovereignty, the new solar system will provide nearly 100% of the community center's annual electrical usage. The system is completely paid for through donations and grants, and will save over \$29,665 in electricity costs over the 25-year warranted life of the system. The value of the savings yields the equivalent of a 6.29% annual rate of return. The community center's array will serve as a beacon to lift people out of poverty, restore hope, and play a role in reducing carbon pollution and mitigate climate change.

Eland Electric Corporation installed the system in March of 2020.

“ We decided to go solar to reduce our energy bills and to focus more of our resources on programming. We are moving closer to our goal of making the Menominee community energy sovereign as a way to create jobs, restore hope, and do our part to reduce carbon pollution and mitigate climate change. “

- Menikānaehkem Community



MISSION STATEMENT:

Menikānaehkem is a grassroots community organization based on the Menominee Reservation in Northeast Wisconsin working to revitalize their communities. Namely, aiming to rebuild by relying on traditional organizing roots and striving for community wellness. Menikānaehkem works to perpetuate healthy, loving, relationships with ourselves, our families, our community, and all of creation to create belonging. They aim to strengthen minds by connecting to their land, language, and lineage to give meaning to life.

THANK YOU FUNDERS AND PARTNERS:

KEY PROJECT FUNDERS

- Phelps Family
- RENEW Wisconsin
- Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA)

PROJECT PARTNERS:

- Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA)
- Eland Electric Corporation
- RENEW Wisconsin
- Solar for Good
- Couillard Solar Foundation
- Sally Mead Hands Foundation

The CO₂ emission reduction per year from this PV installation equals a reduction of 15.1 tons/year!



Learn more:
www.midwestrenew.org/solar-grant