



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Learn more about models for supporting workforce development and advancing equitable access to the clean jobs' sector

Rising Sun Center for Opportunity

LOCATION

Oakland, CA

ENTITY

Nonprofit organization

CLEAN JOB SECTOR

Energy efficiency

[Rising Sun Center for Opportunity](#) (Rising Sun) is a nonprofit organization working at the intersection of economic equity and climate resilience in the California Bay Area and San Joaquin County. Their workforce development programs specialize in preparing youth, women, and other under-represented workers for high-road careers and green pathways that offer family-sustaining wages. The Rising Sun Energy Center is leading the way with green careers through workforce training and development, residential retrofits, and services that lower energy and water usage. With education about sustainable behaviors and technology, they employ a triple win strategy, opening doors to greener futures for people, planet, and prosperity.

Rising Sun's Climate Careers (Climate Careers) employment and training program addresses climate change by employing youth to provide energy efficiency services to over 52,700 Northern California residences. They train and employ Bay Area and San Joaquin youth to conduct Green House Calls in their home communities. At each GreenHouse Call, a team of two youth Energy Specialists provide residents with an energy and water assessment, energy and water saving installations (light bulbs, showerheads, etc.), and further conservation tips, all at no cost. Benefits include a valuable service to residents, positive environmental impacts, and paid employment, training, mentorship, and a wonderful summer experience for youth. Impacts are evident in the numbers: Climate Careers employs 1,985 youth, serves 52,794 homes with GreenHouse Calls, and has served 100 cities to date, engaging in broad-based partnerships to advocate for green workforce development and environmental justice throughout the region and the state.

TESTIMONY

“The way I see it, you can either work for systemic change or you can work on the consumer level. Both of these approaches are valid, and I intend to explore both through my career. Luckily for me, Rising Sun and the Community Energy Challenge have allowed me to further my career with inspired and passionate people in communities that mean the world to me.”

- Griffin Boyle, Former Rising Sun Climate Careers Energy Specialist

“Rising Sun has given me an opportunity to be a proud stakeholder of the planet; as the organization has grown, I have grown. Never in a million years did I think I would serve on the board of a nonprofit, let alone be the chair ... Seeing the way the adult program has developed, I am proud to have contributed ... the staff and Board have done their due diligence to make it more than just training.” In her eyes, “there is no program like ours. Nobody is doing it like we are.”

- Tyi Jonson, Outgoing Board Chair

“I’ve gained knowledge about energy. Lots of tricks and tips that have helped me and my family. Also, I met a ton of awesome people ... Climate Careers is a] great program that gives youth experience so that we can go out and thrive.”

- Climate Careers Participant

Website: <https://risingsunopp.org/>