Empowered Energy Systems Public Benefit Report for 2024

1. In 2024 Empowered Energy Systems continued its work by installing 379.91 kW on residential and commercial properties. The addition of 379.91kW of solar reduces the carbon loading of the atmosphere and adds to the energy independence of the Western Colorado communities that we serve.
2. To increase access to solar for nonprofits and lower-income individuals, when possible, we reduce the cost of the solar system. The Hearth, a building owned by The Learning Council, a non-profit organization based in Paonia, CO, benefited from such a discounted system. In addition, we provided a reduced-cost system for a lower-income household.
3. Empowered Energy Systems performed educational outreach for youth at the Building Futures Event in Montrose,CO and Heritage Days in Delta, CO. At both events, Empowered Energy Systems set up displays that offered interactive activities for students to learn about solar power and its applications.
4. Empowered Energy Systems made financial contributions to the following organizations: Citizens for a Healthy Community, Western Colorado Alliance, Western Slope Conservation Center, and Friends of Youth and Nature. These organizations' missions include local conservation, environmental health and restoration, and outdoor education funding for youth.

5. Empowered Energy Systems converted to a worker-owned cooperative in January 2024. Our conversion process was featured in a KVNF radio story and articles in the local Spotlight and Merchant Herald newspapers. In addition, we were interviewed and featured in stories with Colorado Newsline and the Denver Post. We are a resource for local businesses considering making the shift to a worker-owned cooperative and we were contacted and met with a company located in Ridgway interested in converting to a cooperative.
6. Empowered Energy Systems is a member of Colorado Solar and Storage Association and participates in meetings and events that focus on issues that impact the solar industry and the acquisition of solar in our communities. We interact with the local utilities such as DMEA and SMPA and work to maintain productive relationships with them so that distributed solar remains a viable option for the citizens of our communities. We also sponsor groups, such as the Grand Mesa Nordic Council and Harvest Festival, to support efforts that improve our communities through the arts and access to the outdoors.