BLUE PLANET ENERGY
CUSTOMER
SUCCESS STORY



OFF-GRID BATTERY DONATION

Renewable Energy Becomes New Community Tradition

For the indigenous communities of North and South Dakota, coming together for multi-day ceremonies is an honored tradition carried out generation to generation. With a battery storage donation from Blue Planet Energy, these communities swapped their reliance on gas-powered generators for a cleaner, more sustainable alternative.

PROJECT
Mobile Energy Trailer

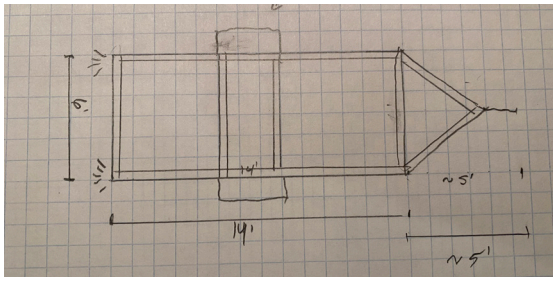
LOCATION
Standing Rock,
North & South Dakota

APPLICATION
Off-Grid Solar-Plus-Storage

PRODUCT
Blue Planet Energy
Blue Ion 2.0

BATTERY SYSTEM
(1) Blue Ion 2.0,
16 kWh capacity total

POWER CONVERSION
3kW solar array
120v Outback inverters
MX 60 charge controller



Standing Rock is a popular gathering place for local indigenous communities, where hundreds come together throughout the year to celebrate their culture. The remote location of Standing Rock – and several other gathering sites across North and South Dakota – however means grid power is not an option. Up until this point, small generators have been the sole source of power for essential cooking stations, lighting, and speakers.

Unfortunately, the constant drone of the generator and harmful emissions are a hindrance to traditional ceremonies and run counter to cultural heritage.

Familiar with the ins and outs of solar and battery storage, Barton Churchill of Energy 1 approached the community with an idea: eliminate generator use altogether and instead draw power from a mobile solar-plus-storage trailer.

"The battery is the single most important component of a solar-plus-storage system of any size. I knew Blue Planet Energy's Blue Ion donation would not only give these communities energy resilience, it would bring greater awareness to the power of renewables."

—Barton Churchill
Project Designer & Manager



Building Awareness and Appreciation for Renewable
Churchill's recommendation was greatly welcomed by the region's indigenous communities, as it aligned with their goal of living sustainably through renewable resources.

Managed and constructed by Churchill himself, the project came together through Blue Planet Energy's battery donation, financial support from NDN Collective, and trailer equipment contribution from Black Dog Fabrication.

"With children always present at these events, education about renewable energy was also a huge motivation for this trailer system," explained Churchill. "This generation now has up close and personal exposure to the technology and impact of a clean energy system. There's even chalk-boards on both sides of the heart of the power system that the children play on. Having them develop an interest in solar and renewable energy, and making it a part of their lives, is really important."

Living a future free from fossil fuel dependence is core to Blue Planet Energy's mission. Donation projects such as this can help spark conversations about renewable energy that ultimately help communities integrate it into their everyday lives.

Blue Ion Reliability is Second to None
Battery reliability was essential for this project, as Churchill needed to be certain the system would not be prone to failure and leave the communities without power.

When it came to choosing a battery for this mobile system, Churchill's first and only choice was what he called "the best battery on the market."

Remote off-grid systems are often difficult to maintain, especially for an installer with a 10-hour drive between his home and Standing Rock like Churchill or end users with little to no technical knowledge. Troubleshooting or repairs on traditional batteries can also be particularly intimidating. Fortunately, Churchill was reassured knowing that in all his years in the industry he has never seen a Blue Planet Energy battery fail. Blue Planet Energy batteries are also designed to require zero-maintenance, unlike traditional storage solutions, like lead acid batteries.

Additionally, Blue Planet Energy's Blue Ion batteries are lithium iron phosphate (LFP) chemistry; the safest, most environmentally benign battery chemistry available. This saves customers money, lasts twice as long as other lithium ion chemistries, and eliminates the risk of thermal runaway - a chain reaction that can often lead to battery fires.

The safety and durability of Blue Planet Energy's Blue Ion batteries ensures the preservation of meaningful traditions that will be enjoyed for generations to come. So far, the mobile solar-plus-storage trailer has successfully been used for numerous ceremonies, and the communities are grateful to participate in festivities without the disruptive noise and air pollution of a generator.

"Freeing others from fossil fuel dependence through our donation program is core to who we are as a company."

—Chris Johnson
CEO
Blue Planet Energy