

Bringing Solar Abroad

Sunbridge Solar's humanitarian effort goes to Nepal

by: Jordan Weisman / Sunbridge Solar

I still remember the first solar panel I ever installed. It was in Costa Rica back in 2008 on a Solar Energy International class. We were installing a system for a man named Alcedis who lived without power in a small ramshackle hut. There were bats living inside his house because it was so dark. It was then I realized how transformative and powerful of a technology solar energy could be.

Thousands of installed solar panels later I still keep that first installation in mind to remind myself that it is more than about years payback and ROI. This is the very reason that Sunbridge Solar keeps rooted in trying to work on both local and international humanitarian projects every year.

As part of this humanitarian effort I wrote a Rotary Matching Grant that provided funding to install a 9kW solar array and battery back-up system for a remote hospital in the Acham district of Western Nepal. Gham Power, a Kathmandu based solar design and installation company, was chosen to execute on this project. I was very impressed with the level of knowledge, detail, and expertise that Gham Power brought to the project.

I am excited to announce that this March the Sunbridge Solar team will partner with Gham Power for a two-week exchange of knowledge and installation best practices. I believe we have much to mutually learn from each other, so we will spend some time sharing ideas and knowledge when we first arrive and then later work together to implement a project.

There are two projects that we will be working together on. The first is a 9kW solar water pumping project to supply clean drinking water in the Kailali region in far Southwestern Nepal. This region is home to the Tharu people who worked as indentured servants to wealthy landowners up until the Nepal government abolished this practice in the early 2000's. The second project is a 35kW mini grid project for an entire community of homes and businesses located in Khotang District in Eastern Nepal.



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Sunbridge Solar is an installer of residential, commercial and agricultural solar systems in the Pacific NW.