



Kayenta Project Boosts Jobs for Arizona Navajos

Helping Community Transition from Coal to Clean Solar Energy

In August 2016 the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) contracted with Isolux Corsan to engineer, procure, and construct a 27.3 MWac (37.59MWp) solar plant on 198 acres outside of Kayenta, Arizona.

When the Isolux brought in Soltec, as one of the main subcontractors, to build the Kayenta Solar Project, it was part of a long-term shift away from coal to solar energy for this region and this community. As the Nation's first and largest solar project, this landmark 38 MW installation included training and employing nearly 200 local community members. Their new solar installation and maintenance skills will serve the Navajo people well as they move into a clean-energy future.

Kayenta Brings Jobs and Clean Energy Skills to the Navajo People

Soltec trained approximately 200 Navajos in the high-level technical procedures required to mechanically assemble and install the plant's tracker and foundation system and its modules. The project's training success became evident through the large number of Kayenta workers were hired by Soltec team for subsequent projects.

Tariffs on Solar Imports Threaten Clean Energy Jobs

The solar section 201 case in front of the International Trade Commission and the Trump Administration threatens a thriving industry that is expected to triple over the next five years and spur billions in new investments. Solar's explosive growth will stop in its tracks if the petition prevails, slashing two-thirds of projects - about 47 gigawatts GW of new capacity by 2022. That's more solar capacity than has been built in the U.S. to date.

Soltec joins the Solar Energy Industry Association (SEIA) and others in the industry in its opposition to Section 201.

"Our Kayenta project brought new jobs to Navajo Nation," says Soltec CEO Raúl Morales. "Between our headquarters in California and construction sites in Oregon, South Carolina and Minnesota, Soltec has a national reach," he says. "Putting this industry and these jobs at risk is against the best interests of communities across the country."

SAY NO TO NEW SOLAR TARIFFS

Learn about SEIA's efforts to safeguard U.S. solar jobs [here](#).

KAYENTA
Case Study



In addition, revenue from Kayenta helps the local utility extend electricity to several of the reservation's communities for the first time, dramatically [raising the standard of living](#) for those families.

Replacing Coal with Solar Sustains At-Risk Communities

Soltec does not just offer training in new skills, but helps the Navajos face important shifts in their economic and energy future. At 2 GW, the old [Navajo Generating Station](#) - slated to shut down in 2019 - is the largest coal-fired power plant in the western United States.

For more than 40 years, the Navajo Nation has depended on the coal industry. In addition to providing hundreds of the reservation's best-paying jobs, the station's revenue, taxes and royalties make up one-third of the Navajo Nation's operating budget.

There is a lot at stake for the Navajos. Solar and other forms of renewable energy present an opportunity to replace old coal jobs with new positions at the cutting edge of the clean energy future. The Navajo Nation's leaders plan to seek future opportunities for large-scale renewable projects to [continue this trend](#). But their efforts won't work if trade protectionism stunts solar's explosive growth.



Project developed by Soltec for Isolux PV Plant in Kayenta, Arizona.