



Accessing the Power of Community

TIER project partners will develop and implement educational and vocational curricula around new energy technology for K-12 students and those wishing to build new job skills in Tenino School District and throughout the region. The curricula will introduce students to new concepts thematically, leading to opportunities for hands-on work with the grid and industry internships. Students who take advantage of these opportunities may elect to further their education at nearby Centralia College, a state-designated Pacific Northwest Center of Excellence for Clean Energy, which has created a secondary education program centered on smart grid technology and industry apprenticeships. The overall goal of TIER's Curriculum project is to give students the tools to work in this emerging field so that the community will be well-positioned to take advantage of new opportunities as they arise. As a forward-thinking community, Tenino is embracing TIER to create both a pathway to college and a subsequent pathway to work in a profitable and growing industry.

Why TIER?

Advanced clean energy technologies are at the heart of a rapidly growing industry that employs over 9 million Americans. As the home of prestigious research institutions, Fortune 500 companies, and technology innovators dedicated to grid modernization, Washington is a prime location for investments in STEM and Career and Technical Education. Targeted investments in early exposure to clean energy literacy for students and a local advanced energy talent pathway will ensure Washington communities are poised to take advantage of these opportunities.



Preparing Next Generation Talent for a New Energy Economy

Tenino School District will lead TIER partners in the preparation of next-generation talent for high-demand energy career pathways. Students of all ages will have the opportunity to explore career-connected STEM experiences as part of a grid edge technology test bed and educational campaign. Pairing the development and deployment of grid modernization technologies with STEM and Career and Technical Education amplifies the effectiveness and relevance of project-based learning. Energy literacy and skills grow as students and trainees navigate their way through tailored educational programs with outcomes that last a lifetime, whether they become informed players in a participatory energy grid or as members of a talent pool that contributes to clean energy solutions for Washington and throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Project Cost

The estimated total cost of this project is \$1,019,838, which will leverage a combination of public and private support. Following a pilot in Tenino, TIER will be replicable across the state and country for a fraction of the initial cost, as the City of Tenino, Tenino School District, and associated partners have committed to the advancement of this new, innovative model. An investment in this project will have an impact far beyond Tenino.



The TIER program at Tenino High School has great potential to build the pipeline of students coming into the Centralia College Energy Technology program. TIER will prepare students to succeed in post-secondary education by fostering the understanding and hands-on experience they will need to monitor renewable energy through a demonstration grid project that will be designed and launched at the high school.

— *Barbara Hins-Turner, Executive Director, Center of Excellence for Clean Energy, Centralia College*

Key Project Leaders

TIER Advisory Committee

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For information regarding the TIER project and to get involved, contact info@PECI.org.