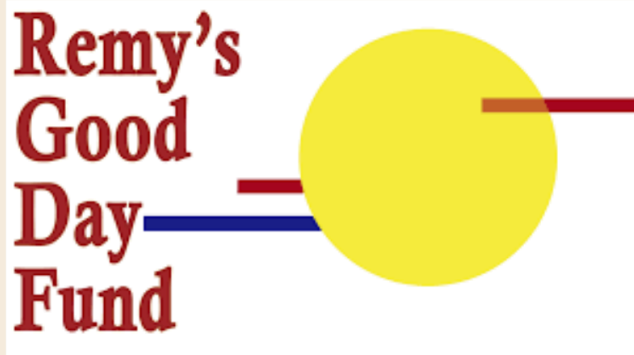


# 2024 SOLAR CONGRESS REPORT



PREPARED BY

**PROSPERA  
PARTNERS**

CULTIVATING COMMUNITIES  
FOR SOCIAL GOOD

6.2024



# Remy's Good Day Fund Report from Prospera Partners : 2024 Solar Congress

## Overview

Prospera Partners began working with Remy's Good Day Fund in April 2024 to support the design and facilitation of the 2024 Solar Congress. In April and May 2024, the Prospera Partners team with Remy's Good Day Fund team co-designed the event including agenda design for presentations and facilitated conversations. On June 7, 2024, Prospera Partners facilitated the full-day event of the Solar Congress of Remy's Good Day Fund grantees at the New Mexico School for the Deaf in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

## Process

Through the design of the Solar Congress, including background research, Prospera Partners defined the following goals for the day:

- Expand understanding of solar projects
- Provide space for networking and building/deepening relationships
- Discuss needs of participants in real time
- Discuss dreams of participants
- Explore how to integrate the topic of climate without diluting or minimizing the focus on solar

The agenda for the Solar Congress was built from the above goals as well as centering on the mission: "Remy's Good Day Fund promotes collaboration for sustainability and the well-being of future generations." During the planning process, it was determined that the word "sustainability" has different meanings to different people and that it would be worth taking time during the Solar Congress to have participants share their definitions of the word since it is so central to the mission of Remy's Good Day Fund.

Additionally, as part of the planning process, Prospera Partners discussed how this was a transition year for Remy's Good Day Fund as the team was embracing the new mission statement and exploring how to potentially expand grantmaking. An important part of planning also included how to honor and connect to past Solar Congresses as well as the 2023 "Generations Align: Sharing Wisdom for Climate Action" event. Looking at all of the past events, it was determined that this year's Solar Congress should also focus on including climate into conversations without losing the focus on solar.

On Friday, June 7, 2024, over 40 participants from around the state attended the 2024 Solar Congress at the New Mexico School for the Deaf in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The day centered on building and deepening trust and relationships, providing a space for presentations of community-centered solar projects, and exploring needs and solutions to advance solar equitably around the state. Below is an agenda from the day.



Friday, June 7, 2024 from 10:00 am-4 pm

10:00-10:20 Welcome

Welcome: Maureen Vosburgh, Executive Director, Remy's Good Day Fund  
 Introduction to Prospera Partners: Eileen Everett, Chief Transformation Officer and Vicki Pozzebon, CEO  
 Land Acknowledgment: Donna Brown, Founder, President, Remy's Good Day Fund  
 Blessing: Darrell Tsabetsaye, President, Major Market, member Zuni Pueblo  
 Goals for the Day and Introduction to Transformational Leadership:  
 Eileen Everett and Vicki Pozzebon

10:20-10:30 Community agreements and the Village Model - Eileen Everett and Vicki Pozzebon

10:30-11:25 Relationship building in circle - Why is solar important to you?

11:25-11:30 Break

11:30 Community-based solar presentations

Covenant Pathways Spirit Farm, James Skeet, Dine (Navajo), Co-Founder Spirit Farm  
 Gallup Solar, Be Sargent, Secretary, Board Member, Gallup Solar  
 Dixon Community Volunteer Fire Department: Steve Jenison, District Chief,  
 Dixon VFD/EMS, Rio Arriba County Fire & Emergency Services

Group question and answers  
 Shared learnings

12:30-1:30 Lunch - Exploring “Why is solar important for your org/group and your community?”: Eileen Everett and Vicki Pozzebon

1:30-1:35 Remembrance of Stan Crawford: Maureen Vosburgh

1:35-1:45 Group sharing - “Why is solar important for your org/group and your community?”: Eileen Everett and Vicki Pozzebon

1:45-2:15 “What does sustainability mean to you?”: Eileen Everett and Vicki Pozzebon

2:15-2:30 Break

2:30-3:44 Story Harvesting – “How to Expand the Conversation to Include Climate without minimizing solar?”: Eileen Everett and Vicki Pozzebon

3:45-4:00 Next Steps and Gratitude Circle: Eileen Everett and Vicki Pozzebon

Attached in Appendix A are notes gathered from the participants throughout the 2024 Solar Congress.

## Findings and Recommendations

Below are the main findings and recommendations from the 2024 Solar Congress:

1. People have different motivations, ethics, and values around solar energy. The “why” behind solar energy can vary from a spiritual connection to the sun to economic development to connecting to cultural values to community preparedness and responsiveness. Not all of these lead to the same shared values or exploration of ethics of how solar energy is utilized in different communities in varied ways. Focusing a future Solar Congress on this discussion of exploring shared values and ethics around solar energy in New Mexico could be beneficial.
2. “Sustainability” as a word can have a variety of meanings and to some, may even be a word to not use. In Appendix A are various definitions gathered from participants and we recommend that Remy’s Good Day Fund reflect on these notes and either provide a clear definition of sustainability in the mission statement or explore using a different word to convey the message in the mission statement.
3. Explore finding a space that can host smaller groups through the day. It appeared that the small group conversations were the most beneficial part of the day for most participants. Originally, there was the intention for groups to be able to spread out and go outside into some beautiful spaces on the New Mexico School for the Deaf campus to visit with one another. Unfortunately, the heat did not allow for this to happen and everyone needed to stay in the same room. In the future, it would be ideal to have a space that would allow for smaller groups to converse with one another in other rooms.



It would also be beneficial to explore providing stipends and other ways to support attendees participating and engaging. For future years, depending upon the goals and purpose defined for the Solar Congress, we recommend reviewing the timing and length of the event.

4. There may not be a need to integrate the discussion of climate change/crisis into the one of solar energy as people may already be doing so. During the story harvesting offered in the afternoon, we sensed confusion around the prompt of “How to Expand the Conversation to Include Climate without minimizing solar.” From the discussions, we gathered that people are already linking the two and do not need to expand the conversation as the conversations are already including the interconnectedness of solar and climate.

Thank you for the opportunity for Prospera Partners to support the 2024 Solar Congress! We look forward to future opportunities to work with Remy’s Good Day Fund.

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## Appendix A - 2024 Solar Congress Notes

Overall theme of wanting to discuss ethics, values, shared beliefs

### Why is solar important for your org/group and your community?

Students creating a grid-tied solar system in urban environments

GDP -> Gross National Happiness -> focusing on social impact

Questioning dominant culture

“Bite size chunks” vs. large scale

Loss of ownership when solar is 100% - powered during the day (Taos given as example)

Mentoring

Education needed for mentoring and fixing

Donut Economics (book)

Regenerative

How can water be captured off solar panels?

Reciprocity

Reflecting on The Village Model (We have within us the knowledge and wisdom to solve our greatest challenges, and we are better together.)

Justice

People right now don’t have electricity on the Navajo Nation

Able to move back to ancestral home because of access to solar

Need more technicians

### What is sustainability?

Self-sufficiency (not being dependent on upon an infrastructure)

Freedom

Justice

Catalyst for a new life

Bridge to where we want to go

Future context

Community

Conserving

Changing the expectations

Doing the opposite of burning through the resources

Revolution

NOT just maintaining

Need to sustain some traditions

### How can we expand the conversation to include climate without minimizing solar?

Is trying to deliver solar to Indigenous communities extractive?

Use relationships/trust

Respond to community need

Value change solution vs climate change solution

We have the answers locally

Resource providers -> do it with ethics, trust, respect, respect culture and values

Resource sharing -> build trust

Build trust with the Sun -> ask consent and need trust with the elements and non-humans

Human scale solutions

Smaller scale solar and commodification