



namasté
SOLAR

Walt Ratterman Award for Creative Community Energy

Nominee: Wade Andrews

Nominee Bio:



Wade's interest in Namasté Solar began while he attended Solar Energy International's Photovoltaic Design and Installation course in 2007, which culminated with a commercial installation led by several of Namaste Solar's co-owners. In February 2008, Wade joined the Namasté Solar family, bringing his unique perspective as a Colorado native raised in Boulder. Having grown up in the midst of abundant natural beauty, Wade has always been

dedicated to the well-being of his local community and environment and conscious of the effects that every action can have on the whole earth. He finds great satisfaction in completing high-quality solar installations that truly make a positive difference in the world and loves sharing that satisfaction with co-owners and customers alike. When he's not on a roof enjoying the work, the views, and the sunshine, Wade can be found somewhere in the mountains hiking, snowboarding, or meditating, or on his family's farm growing organic vegetables for local families and hops for local breweries. Wade earned his NABCEP Solar PV Installer Certification in September 2010. Playing a role in installing our donation projects is one of his favorite parts of working for Namaste Solar.

Donation Recipient: Cal-Wood Education Center – Jamestown, CO www.calwood.org

Cal-Wood's mission is to offer a unique outdoor educational experience to youth and adults in a manner that will carry on the vision of Roger and Oral Calvert. To this end Cal-Wood's goals are: (1) to help all who come to Cal-Wood develop a greater appreciation for the natural world; (2) to offer environmental education to those who would not otherwise experience it; and (3) to provide unique educational opportunities in a special mountain setting.

While Cal-Wood's main focus is to provide unique outdoor education programs to schools throughout the year, their remote and breathtaking setting, combined with cozy accommodations and delicious food, creates the perfect atmosphere for organizational retreats, youth camps and professional development opportunities such as seminars, workshops and conferences.

System Specifications and Benefits:

- System Size: 8.28 kW
- Modules: 36 SunPower 230 watt modules
- Inverter: SunPower SPR-8000f



- Estimated annual electricity production: 11,799 kWh
- Annual CO₂ emissions reduced: 26,164 lbs.
- Equivalent reduction in vehicle miles driven: 26,431 miles/year
- Equivalent number of trees planted: 929 trees
- Annual electricity bill savings @ \$0.106/kWh = \$1,251/year



Nomination:

Each year Namaste Solar donates 1% of its annual revenue regardless of profit to helping non-profit organizations install solar PV systems. The grants can either be full or matching. A full grant means that there is no cost to the organization for the installation. A matching grant means that the organization is able to contribute half of the after rebate cost of the system. Our donation to Cal-Wood Education Center was a full grant installed in May 2010.

Cal-Wood is near and dear to the hearts of Namaste Solar co-owners. One of our co-owners was married there, and we held our bi-annual company retreats on-site from 2007 through the spring of 2010. While we were saddened to eventually grow out of their available space for our retreats, we were thrilled to be able to contribute to their ongoing mission by donating an 8.28 kW solar PV system to their main building. The system will allow both school students and adults who visit Cal-Wood to learn about solar PV and its benefits. Many of the school students who visit Cal-Wood are from the city of Denver and may have had few if any experiences in the outdoors. Similarly, they may be unaware of renewable energy and its benefits. We believe strongly in the educational benefit of each of our solar PV system installations and are pleased that Cal-Wood will be able to take advantage of this educational resource. The system will also contribute to the operational expenses of the organization by decreasing their electricity bill by over \$1,200 during the first year and likely increasing amounts during each year to come throughout the lifetime of the system.



Wade Andrews is a Namaste Solar co-owner and one of our NABCEP certified installation crew leaders. He led the crew that installed the system at Cal-Wood. He was thrilled to be a part of this project because our grant program is one of his favorite aspects of working for Namaste Solar. He enjoys being able to do one of the things that he loves most, installing solar, while being a part of his company giving back to the community.

We believe that the solar PV system installation at Cal-Wood and Wade's role in it are indicative of the spirit behind the new Walt Ratterman Award for Creative Community Energy. An organization that provides a valuable resource to the community will now benefit from creating its own clean, solar-powered energy at no cost to them. We appreciate your consideration of this nomination.

