

High resolution photos from We Share Solar's teacher workshop in Minneapolis can be [downloaded via Dropbox](#). Photo credit: We Share Solar / Katie G. Nelson



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Minnesota students to provide light to more than 40,000 refugees through We Share Solar STEM, global citizenship program

Students build Solar Suitcases through Wells Fargo supported program

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. – (July 30, 2019) – Eleven Twin Cities area schools and after-school programs have signed on for a unique STEM education program during the 2019/2020 school year. We Share Solar is a national program that empowers students to be global changemakers by combining solar energy and engineering education with real-world application. Students will build portable, 12-volt DC We Share Solar® Suitcases that will bring electricity to more than 40,000 students at schools at Kakuma Refugee Camp in the northwestern region of Kenya. The Twin Cities program is fully funded by Wells Fargo.

“Around the world, approximately 840 million people are living without electricity, many of them in sub-Saharan Africa. It’s not an exaggeration to say that a simple solar power system, providing clean, renewable electricity, can change lives,” says Gigi Dekko Goldman, co-founder of We Share Solar. “We Share Solar engages students in a proactive, hands-on opportunity to make a tangible impact in the lives of students on the other side of the globe. We’re thrilled to bring this program to students in the Twin Cities so they can be inspired by sustainable energy and to plant the seeds of global citizenship.”

The [cohort of Twin Cities area schools and after-school programs](#) represents a diverse cross section of students and geographies, including Patrick Henry High School in Minneapolis, St. Louis Park Middle School, the School of Environmental Studies in Apple Valley, Girls Inc. at the YWCA in Minneapolis and Henry Sibley High School in Mendota Heights.

“As a national sponsor of the We Share Solar program, we have been able to open new doors for students by championing an unforgettable learning experience through a curriculum including global energy poverty, basic electricity, solar energy and engineering,” said CaSondra Devine, Wells Fargo sustainability initiatives leader. “We have implemented the We Share Solar program with team members in London, Toronto, San Francisco, Charlotte and

now in the Twin Cities. We continue to be inspired by the impact of providing light to those in need while fostering a generation of leaders focused on global citizenship, financial literacy and careers in STEM.”

In a two-day workshop at the Wells Fargo Connections Center in Minneapolis on July 24-25, teachers from the Minnesota cohort of schools and volunteers from Wells Fargo were trained to assist students in building about 120 We Share Solar Suitcases, an activity which will take place at each school this fall. The suitcases are powerful enough to illuminate two to three classrooms and charge devices such as mobile phones or tablets. Once the Solar Suitcases are built, they will be sent to Kakuma Refugee Camp in northwestern Kenya and are expected to benefit over 40,000 students and teachers at schools that lack electricity. The delivery and installation process will be captured through video, photos and stories. In April 2020, the stories will be shared with the students who built the Solar Suitcases, so they can experience firsthand the impact of their efforts.

Launched in 2013, We Share Solar is the educational program from We Care Solar, a 501(c)3 organization located in Berkeley, California, that is dedicated to bringing light and power to maternal health clinics and education facilities in the developing world through the deployment of Solar Suitcases. We Share Solar’s national expansion supported by Wells Fargo was successfully launched in San Francisco for the 2017/2018 academic year and in Charlotte, North Carolina, for the 2018/2019 academic year. The Twin Cities program began in July 2019 for the 2019/2020 school year.

About We Share Solar

We Share Solar is the educational program of We Care Solar, a Berkeley, California-based nonprofit dedicated to bringing light and power to the developing world. Since 2013, We Share Solar has deployed more than 715 Solar Suitcases benefiting 215,000 students, teachers and community members with access to light and power. Over 14,700 students have participated in We Share Solar programs. To learn more about We Share Solar, please visit wesharesolar.org or call (510) 766-0206.

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Wells Fargo has committed to work throughout its value chain – products and services, operations and culture, and strategic philanthropy – to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy. In 2018 the company committed to provide \$200 billion in financing to sustainable businesses and projects by 2030 with more than 50 percent focused on renewable energy, clean technology and green-building transactions that directly support the transition to a low-carbon future. Additional news, insights and perspectives are available at www.wellsfargo.com/environment and [Wells Fargo Stories](#).

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