

2009 Outstanding Employer Award

Sicangu Wicoti Awayankapi - Rosebud Housing Authority

Sicangu Nation

Rosebud, South Dakota

In a collaborative effort with Sicangu Nation Employment and Training Program to create new green jobs for the community's youth and adult workforce, Sicangu Wicoti Awayankapi contributed approximately \$384,333 for solar heat panel installation training and straw bale home construction training, and \$200,000 for a homeless shelter for veterans, which was valued at \$365,000. These joint efforts have created about 30 jobs and helped provide efficient, cost-effective solar heating systems for 150 homes.

Thirty clients from the Sicangu Nation Employment and Training Program were provided with supportive services (i.e., work tools, work clothes, gas vouchers, training tuition, per diem, lodging) in order to participate in a solar heating two-

hour power point training and five-hours installation demonstration. They were also part of a two-week classroom plus on-site training, which resulted in their certification as installers and immediate employment to install these green systems. Finally, they received straw bale home construction training and, thus far, have completed a three-bedroom home using locally produced straw, and equipped with solar panels, for an elderly, handicapped woman who had lost her home to a fire.

These types of green jobs, which are easily replicated, use local resources, and teach important life skills to community members, will be in high demand as tribes learn the importance and efficiency of this industry, and redirect training dollars to these areas.