



Here Comes the Sun

A case study on turning
Girl Power into Solar Power

girls
inc.®



POWERED BY CHARLES & MARGERY BARANCIK FOUNDATION

GIRL

power



Clean
Water



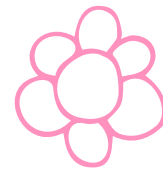
green
trees



HEALTHY
FOOD



Fresh
Air



Imagine a planet where eight-year-old girls are in charge of the
Environmental Protection Agency.

This is a story about how Girls Inc. of Sarasota County said,

“If we can dream it, we can do it!”

Save
the Planet



Go Green



It all started when the people at a place called Barancik Foundation believed
that every child and their family should have
a safe home, fresh food, and a clean environment.

They had an idea that in order to save the planet,
more organizations should go green.

They looked to find opportunities to help nonprofits
save water, recycle, and switch to renewable energy.

Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation supports programs that protect the environment and encourage people to go beyond their neighborhood and learn more about their world. Our partners help families escape life stresses by interacting with nature and become inspired to help preserve it for future generations.



Barancik Foundation knew that their friends at Girls Inc. were
trusted and effective partners.

They also knew that Girls Inc. had a great big roof that would be perfect for
solar collection.

What if we installed the **LARGEST** solar array Sarasota has ever seen on it?

All the money from energy savings could be
reinvested into programs for the girls!

Boring adult stuff

As technology costs go down, many businesses are making the most out of operating in our Sunshine State by switching to solar. Nonprofit organizations should have the same opportunity. We sought to launch a Solar Powered by Barancik Foundation pilot that would serve as a model to expand nonprofit impact, guide best practices, and provide environmental education.

A \$575,000 grant to Girls Inc. would allow the organization to install new solar technology to save energy costs and create an opportunity for the hundreds of girls they serve to become lifelong conservationists.



Girls Inc. thought it was a great idea, and a company was hired to install

564 solar panels on 12,000 square feet of roof.

The benefit of the clean energy source to the environment alone would be equal to

planting 9,000 trees a year!

But the greatest magic of all was the chance to create a

whole new generation of conservationists.

More adult things

Brilliant Harvest, a local solar company, was contracted to install the largest solar array in Sarasota County. The switch to solar power generates an abundance of renewable energy and saves the organization more than \$20,000 per year.



Eco Friendly

Zero Waste

Recycle

GIRLS
CAN DO
ANYTHING

During the solar installation, Girls Inc. created
curriculum around sustainability and conservation.

Armed with their imagination and the lessons they learned, the
strong, smart, and bold girls led the charge in greening their building.

A sustainable garden was planted.

Water wasn't wasted.

Trash was recycled.

And lights were switched off after use.

no bulb was left unturned!

It keeps going!

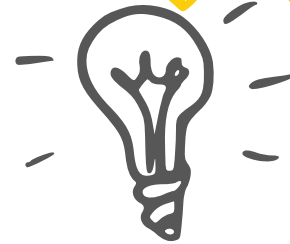
Girls Inc. identified ways to incorporate lessons on sustainability into existing curriculum, ranging from their literacy activities to their culinary program. The girls not only learned about ways to reduce waste, they also learned about careers in conservation, advocacy, and policy.

LET'S BE
SUSTAINABLE!!

if you Don't
clean Up Trash

The earth
won't feel good

TURN THE
LIGHTS OFF



REDUCE.
REUSE.
RECYCLE

xoxo



To guide the organization into the future, the girls elected their own
Sustainability Council.

Through their direction, recycling bins were purchased, food was composted, and sustainability was added to new member orientations.

The girls also created posters, artwork, and songs to remind each other to
pick up trash, use less water, and be sustainable!

Still more adult reading

The impact of the girls' curriculum carried over to the staff. Operational procedures were changed to ensure they met sustainable standards. The girls' sustainability council even met with members of the Board of Directors and talked about ways the Board could promote conservation at their workplaces.



The green efforts led to a total organizational culture change.
Even Girls Inc. staff started to change their habits at work and home.

For the girls, a new generation of environmental stewards will carry on the practices they've learned throughout their lives and future careers.

Knowing we all share the same ocean, sky, and trees, the girls aren't waiting around for others to do better.

**"Right now, we hold the record for solar power in town.
We dare you to go bigger."**

Almost done!

Barancik Foundation hired an independent evaluator to track progress on the grant and outcomes. The impact of the solar installation and educational programming were so notable, Girl Inc.'s national affiliate has shown interest in replicating the program at other locations. The lessons learned in the pilot project will help guide other nonprofits as they make the switch to solar energy in the community.



The End

This report was made with recycled materials.
To learn more about our work, visit www.BarancikFoundation.org.

