

NAVAJO TIMES

DINÉ BI NAALTSOOS

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Bill includes \$1M for NTUA's off-grid solar projects

WASHINGTON – Included in the \$53.6 billion Energy and Water Development Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations bill that was reported out of committee on Aug. 4 was \$1 million for off-the-grid solar projects by Navajo Tribal Utility Authority.

According to Sen. Martin Heinrich's office, NTUA received CARES Act funds to complete electric connections, water extensions, off-grid residential solar unit placements, and broadband/internet installations.

NTUA continues to advance projects to shovel-ready status, identifying and completing feasibility studies on Navajo family homes.

As part of this effort, NTUA installed and commissioned 300 solar units using CARES Act funding. These solar units were offered to homes when connecting to the electric grid was not feasible because of location, cost, or other determinations.

There is a carryover of 701 completed solar applications from NTUA's CARES Act projects. NTUA will begin taking new solar unit applications at the end of June 2021.