

501(c)(3) non-profit organization

607-609 Condado St.

Offices 401-402

San Juan, Puerto Rico

# RESILIENT POWER PUERTO RICO

Versión 1

# ABOUT US

*A Puerto Rico with redundant, reflexive, and inclusive built and social infrastructures where communities can autonomously adapt to build a sustainable and equitable society.*



## RPPR, San Juan

Energy Toolkit Launch

Resilient Power Puerto Rico is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization focused on strengthening communities' capacity to respond, rebuild, and prosper in the aftermath of natural disasters. Central to our mission is the belief that uninterrupted access to decentralized, distributed renewable energy is essential to bolster the Islands' critical public and social infrastructure systems. At RPPR we are committed to increasing local control of renewable energy assets to build more sustainable and equitable futures.



# OUR VALUES

***Intersectionality is at the heart of our values.***

**intersectionality** (in-tr-sek-sh-na-l tē): interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage.



## 1. EQUITY

We foster local control of resources for recovery, climate adaptation, and sustainable economic development.

## 2. INCLUSIVENESS

We engage across diverse geographical areas and knowledge bases, integrating underrepresented and marginalized groups and communities.

## 3. GENDER-RESPONSIVNESS

We promote talent, initiatives, and projects that reduce gender-based gaps in income and leadership.

## 4. SUSTAINABILITY

We reduce our current impact on the environment and safeguard resources for future generations.

## 5. COLLABORATION

We prioritize our partnerships to ensure that our work is aligned with the vision and goals of the communities we work with.

## 6. ADAPTIVITY

We build infrastructures to develop the capacity to critically internalize knowledge and rapidly respond to changing needs.



# OUR BOARD

*In September of 2017, Hurricanes Irma and María struck Puerto Rico within two weeks. Communication systems collapsed, roads were inaccessible, and the country was under the second largest blackout in history. Within days of Hurricane María, a group of friends organized to bring power to underserved communities. The mission was to deploy solar energy systems in neighborhoods most impacted by the storm. Leveraging a network of groups providing critical services throughout Puerto Rico, they channelled resources directly into the hands of the mutual aid centers leading relief and recovery on the islands.*



## JOHNATHAN MARVEL

Co-Founder, President

Architect, urban designer, professor. Jonathan's practice extends across more than three decades and ranges from architecture, planning, and public space design, to community, economic and sustainable development. His projects have included educational institutions, single- and multi-family housing, libraries, museums, and large-scale mixed-use developments. Jonathan is Founding Principal of Marvel Architects with offices in New York and San Juan. He has received the national and international design awards, including a 2019 Presidential Citation by the American Institute of Architects.



## CRISTINA ROIG

Co-Founder, Vice-President

Cristina is an attorney with over 20 years of experience in media and entertainment law. She advises on a broad range of transactions relating to distribution, licensing, and rights acquisition. She is currently senior counsel at Warner Bros. Discovery. She was also assistant Vice-President/Senior Legal Counsel at AT&T Communications, following a decade in the same role at DIRECTV for its Latin America pay-TV distribution platform. Cristina has supported the work of numerous non-profit organizations in NYC, including as a member of Museo del Barrio's Board of Directors.



## JOSÉ JUAN TERRASA-SOLER

Secretary

Landscape architect, environmental consultant, professor. José Juan has a professional practice spanning over 20 years of research, writing, and teaching with a focus on the intersection of ecology and design. He is currently Director at Marvel Architects (San Juan and New York), and was RPPR's Executive Director (2018-2019). Previously, he was the Environmental Business Unit Manager at CSA Architects & Engineers, Founding Principal at EnviroDesign Studio, and he was also Director of Planning and Development at the Puerto Rico Tourism Company.

# OUR TEAM

We believe in **CLIMATE JUSTICE**, supporting local control over our climate adaptation assets to reduce displacement and exposure to natural disasters.

We believe in **ENERGY JUSTICE**, supporting access to decentralized, distributed, renewable energy to drive a more equitable and sustainable development.

We believe in **EQUITY**, supporting intersectional approaches that shift knowledge, power and resources to our most marginalized groups and communities, thus ensuring they are the primary agents in the transition to a green economy.



## ALEJANDRA CASTRODAD RODRÍGUEZ

Executive Director

Economist, strategic planner, policy maker, and conceptual designer. Alejandra has more than 15 years of experience partnering with community-based, non-profit and government institutions. As a policy advisor, she has led cross-sectoral teams in strategic planning efforts aimed at reducing inequity and exposure to risk. Her projects have ranged from the development of policy, plans, and strategies and disaster risk reduction assessments, to designing web-based community recovery tools. As a Senior Policy Advisor, she was tasked with leading transdisciplinary teams, in her roles as San Juan’s Chief Resilience Officer, as Task Force Lead for Puerto Rico’s National Disaster Resilience Competition; and as Deputy Advisor to the Governor’s Office for the Development of Vieques and Culebra. As a consultant, she worked with OXFAM-America. Prior to returning to Puerto Rico, she taught research methods courses and designed large-scale datasets at the LSE, and worked as an LED Consultant for DANIDA. She is currently Treasurer of the Board for Kilómetro 0 and has supported several local non-profit organizations.



## HELVIA IRIZARRY QUINTERO

Operations Manager

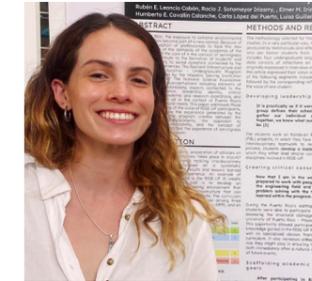
Lawyer, social planner, cultural coordinator and logistics jedi. Helvia has more than 15 years’ experience working in non-profit coordination and cultural productions. As a non-profit leader she has represented educational non-profits in local and international partnerships, in charge of managing projects ranging from developing schools to coordinating international conferences. As a coordinator she supervised large teams and was in charge of evaluations and fund allocation. As a cultural producer she was tasked with connecting young talents with a nationally recognized annual TV special and she has overseen multi-million-dollar budgets. At Nuestra Escuela Helvia worked on the IDEC (International Democratic Education Conference, developed the Shuele Yietu School in Kenya and was the grant-maker for their alternative education project grants program. She was the Production Coordinator in Banco Popular de Puerto Rico’s Christmas Special for 5 years, and also Office Manager at La Tara production house. Her interests lie in increasing access to resources and services in partnership with community-based organizations.



## ALEX VILLEGAS ENCARNACIÓN

Project Manager

Social planner, educator, community liaison. Alex has more than 20 years of experience working with community-based organizations focused on sports and the environment. He has been a community liaison, using sport and education as a tool for development. At the San Juan Bay Estuary, as a Community Resilience Coordinator, he created their Resilient Centers’ Hazard management guides. At Nuestra Escuela he created the Sports’ League for the Alliance for Alternative Education to increase access to higher education for youths in marginalized communities.



## ROCÍO SOTOMAYOR IRIZARRY

Analyst and Community Liaison

Civil engineer, educator, community liaison. Rocío is passionate about infrastructure as a tool to promote equity, sustainable development, and climate change adaptation. She has worked in academia and non-profits, as an analyst, researcher, and educator. At RPPR, she has trained participants on climate change, energy systems, and energy auditing processes and worked on the development of our virtual platform iluminACIÓN. She was also a founding member of Girls in Civil, and an intern, at Disaster Relief and Resilience REU - University of Illinois.



## SEBASTIÁN CASTRODAD REVERÓN

Community Manager

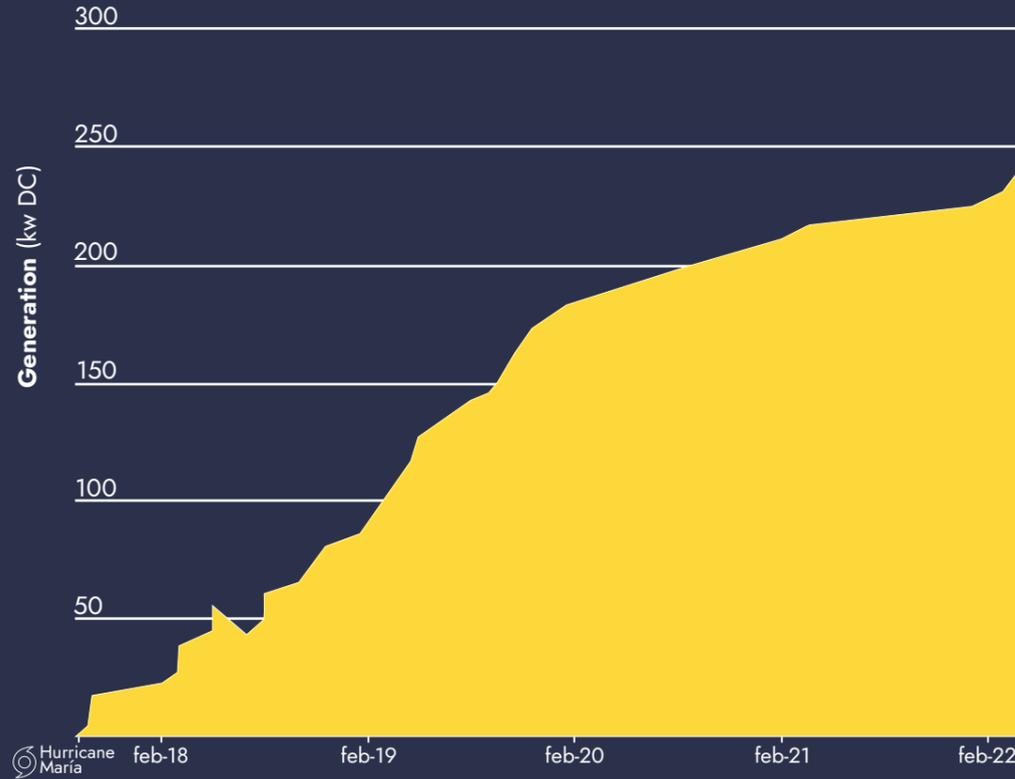
Photographer, writer, videographer, content creator. He has worked in the hospitality, sports and publishing industries. Sebastián has been a freelance photographer for The New York Time’s articles on travel, sports and cooking pieces in the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. He is the official photographer for the Moca Explosivas women’s basketball team, LBSNF Champions. He has been community manager for local small businesses such as Vittata Gastropub and Set the Bar.



**El Coquí, Salinas**  
 February, 2018  
 5.2 kW DC | 24 kWh



**COMMUNITY ENERGY RESILIENCE HUBS**



**Punta Santiago, Humacao**  
 April, 2021  
 5.6 kW DC | 12 kWh



**COSSAO, Utuado**  
 August, 2018  
 5.2 kW DC | 24 kWh



**Coalición de Coaliciones**  
 February, 2022  
 6.3 kW DC | 12 kWh

# OUR APPROACH



Co-learning to reimagine and adapt in the face of climate change.

## CO-LEARN

We work to identify and document communities' climate vulnerability, audit organizations' energy consumption and assess their renewable energy needs.

Co-designing solutions for equitable climate adaptation.

## CO-DESIGN

We design energy resilience proposals in which we determine total and critical energy loads, identify consumption reduction opportunities, and optimize solar energy system sizes.

Co-developing projects for local control of climate adaptation assets.

## CO-DEVELOP

We match investors to projects and partner with organizations through the development stage, from site assessments and preparation and the procurement of technical and installation teams, through to the installation of their solar energy system. The process is completed with an operation and maintenance workshop that marks the handover of the systems to their communities.

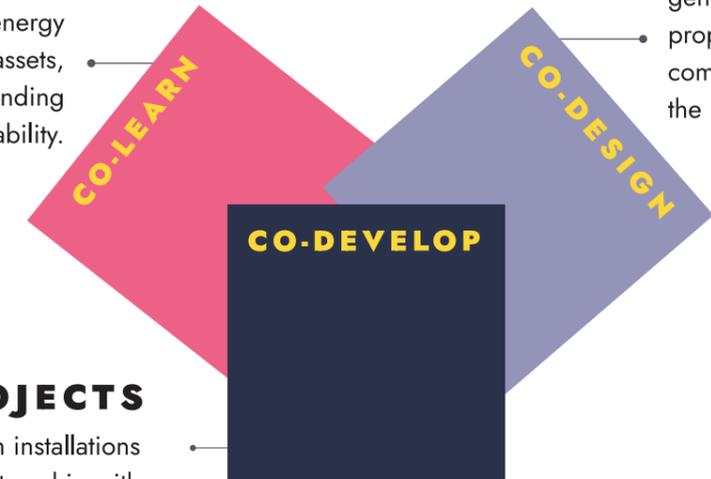
*RPPR is developing a replicable and scalable model as an alternative to the privatized centralized grid. To this end, we engage in a collaborative design process with local non-profits and community-based organizations from existing service provision networks.*



**NEEDS**  
Together with community leadership we document energy consumption and local assets, while gaining and understanding about their climate vulnerability.

**PROJECTS**  
Solar energy system installations are completed in partnership with communities, as well as planning for uses before and after extreme events.

**PROPOSALS**  
Using the data & information generated, we develop a full proposal to finance, design and complete a solar energy system with the participating communities.



# OUR WORK

*RPPR's Mission is to:*

*Increase access to the knowledge, tools, and resources needed for sustainable and equitable development*

*Democratize the development and management of climate adaptation assets*

*Increase the availability and accessibility to affordable renewable energy*



## FCHV, Vieques

November, 2018

5 kW DC | 24 kWh

To date, more than 25 organizations have participated in RPPR's workshops and training sessions as part of our **Co-learning** programs. We have **Co-designed** more than 20 solar energy system proposals, out of which 8 proposals have been funded with investments totaling more than \$425k. Moreover, we have **Co-developed** 41 energy systems in partnership with 38 groups and organizations. Today, organizations working in some of Puerto Rico's most marginalized communities own more than 220 kWh of energy generation. The systems are located across more than 20 municipalities from Vieques to Mayagüez.





### RED DE REDES

We are working with Coalición de Coaliciones para Personas Sin Hogar and Coordinadora Paz para las Mujeres to co-develop solar energy systems with entities offering essential services to survivors of gender violence and unhoused populations. Following a technical assistance phase in which we co-designed solar energy systems with 10 organizations, we co-developed 3 systems with the support of NRDC and the Leon Lowenstein Foundation.

In 2023, through our co-learning program, we have trained over ten energy auditors, who will support the expansion of our portfolio with more than twenty solar energy system proposals. The group has been piloting our Energy Calculator, the first tool in ilumiNACIÓN, RPPR’s virtual platform. This year, we will co-develop a further two systems in Ponce and Toa Baja.



### FIONA RELEIF FUND

Established with the generous support from Oxfam America, the Schmidt Family Foundation and El Mar Fund, RPPR is supporting our resilient energy hubs with direct aid (grants), solar-powered public lighting, net-metering and fundraising campaigns for each partner. Following the storm, we provided a mobile solar energy system to the community library in El Frontón, Ciales (see photo above). Moreover, we completed a needs assessment across all centers and offered the necessary technical assistance to restart malfunctioning systems.

To date, we’ve distributed more than \$15,000 of direct aid (grants) to 23 community centers from Culebra to Mayagüez, initiated net-metering processes for 12 centers, installed solar energy luminaries in 4 communities and have more than 10 projects in the pipeline.

*RPPR is committed to facilitating open access to the necessary knowledge bases and project development skills needed to actively engage local and community leadership in recovery and reconstruction processes.*

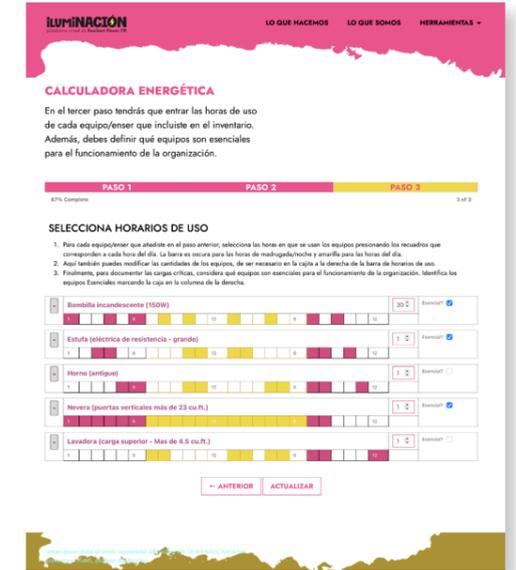
### A home-grown platform to facilitate the adoption of renewable energy throughout Puerto Rico.

*RPPR has developed a virtual platform, aimed at strengthening marginalized groups and communities’ adaptive capacity in the face of climate change. Together, we hope to build sustainable and equitable futures with our communities.*



### ilumiNACIÓN

IlumiNACIÓN has four (4) tools: a geo-referenced climate vulnerability tool, mutual aid hub, a data repository and the recently launched energy calculator. These tools are designed to support groups as they rebuild and reimagine their communities following extreme natural and anthropogenic events.



### ENERGY CALCULATOR

Our energy calculator is designed to understand how we use electric power, how much it costs and how much we might save if we used more efficient equipment and appliances. Upon completing an energy audit, the reports help us decide whether changing our equipment is cost effective. The user can also determine the optimal solar system size based on available resources and total or critical energy loads.



  
**RPPR**  
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