



Partner Overview: **Savo Island Solar Initiative**

Tourism is the primary source of income in the Solomon Islands, and equipping local communities to support sustainable tourism is key to poverty eradication. At the same time, residents of the Solomon Islands pay some of the highest prices in the world for their power. The island of Savo is home to 5,000 indigenous residents and relies exclusively on diesel for power. Here, a tourism enterprise Sunset Lodge (the island's main source of employment and income) spends over US\$12,000 per year on diesel to run its generator, only powering lighting and ceiling fans.

Organization Overview:

[Blue Volt](#) is a social enterprise solar company founded by a group of Australian solar researchers and engineers. Built on the premise that solar energies should be available for everyone, Blue Volt works across Australia to provide innovative solar technology at a more affordable price.



Project Summary:

Working in partnership with Policy Managers at the [McKell Institute](#) in Australia, and with and the Savo Island community, Blue Volt is converting the Sunset Lodge from its toxic, noisy diesel generators to a complete solar PV system. The cyclone-proof solar array increases Savo's community economic center's energy independence and ability to scale and employ additional community members. The size of the installation also ensures that the community has amenities, such as refrigeration.



In the future, the team will implement a portable battery system, charging batteries on-site for use in surrounding villages. With interest from the Solomon Islands government and a high potential for scalability, the Savo Solar Initiative has the potential to transform the relationship between people and power in the Solomon Islands.

Award Amount: \$40,000