



Renewable Energy Scholarship Foundation

2025 Annual Report

Supporting Pacific Northwest Students committed to Renewable Energy

A Message from our President

2025 was a year of meaningful growth and progress for the Renewable Energy Scholarship Foundation. What began as a modest effort has continued to expand in reach and impact, allowing us to support more students pursuing education and careers in renewable energy and decarbonization.

This year, RESF awarded 30 scholarships totaling \$94,000 to undergraduate and graduate students studying engineering, science, policy, and related fields. We are proud to honor our 2025 scholarship recipients and wish them every success as they continue their studies and build careers dedicated to advancing a clean energy future.

These accomplishments were made possible by the generosity of our donors, whose record-setting contributions in 2025 reflect a strong belief in investing in the next generation of energy leaders. I am also deeply grateful to our board members and selection committee volunteers, whose time, expertise, and dedication allow RESF to operate efficiently while maintaining high standards of fairness and stewardship.

Looking ahead to 2026, our commitment remains clear: to support and encourage more students at a pivotal moment for renewable energy. I invite you to stay connected with RESF as we continue this important work together.

David Reingold
President
Renewable Energy Scholarship Foundation

Mission, Vision, and Context

The Renewable Energy Scholarship Foundation's (RESF) vision is to decarbonize energy systems. RESF's mission is to provide financial support and encouragement to college students who are studying science, engineering, policy, or related fields with the goal of contributing to this transformation. RESF offers scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students who are either studying at Pacific Northwest universities and colleges (Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Idaho, and Montana) or who grew up in the Pacific Northwest and are studying outside the region. RESF also supports Native American students with no geographic restrictions.

Decarbonizing the U.S. energy system is a shared challenge that demands collaboration across many disciplines. Engineers and scientists advance clean technologies; economists, financiers, and policymakers help those solutions scale; data and systems experts manage complexity; and social scientists and community leaders help ensure progress is inclusive and durable. Meaningful change happens only when these efforts come together. RESF's objective is to support the next generation of driven, talented students who will bring their skills, creativity, and leadership to this collective effort.

Accomplishments in 2025

2025 was a breakthrough year for RESF in scholarships, fundraising, and reach.

Scholarships:

Each year, RESF’s scholarship recipients and their stories are what the Foundation most wants to celebrate. Biographies of scholarship winners are available on the RESF website at <https://www.resf-pnw.org/>. A few short profiles are interspersed throughout this report.

In 2025, RESF awarded a total of 30 scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,000, totaling \$94,000, to students from 11 universities and colleges across four states. The total value of scholarships awarded in 2025 grew by 46% compared to 2024 and reflects ongoing steady growth since 2016.

The scholarship recipients included a balanced group of undergraduate and graduate students studying sciences, engineering, policy, and planning.

RESF also reconnected with 2024 scholarship recipients to gather reflections on the impact of their awards. The following quotes capture what RESF strives to achieve:



“The RESF scholarship gave me confidence that my work in the field of clean energy is recognized and valued... I see this scholarship as an instrumental step in my journey.”

— EJ Brannan, 2024 Sir Fraser Stoddart Scholar



“Receiving this scholarship has alleviated financial stress, allowing me to better focus on my academics and research... This scholarship has been instrumental in supporting my academic and research goals and reinforcing my passion for renewable energy”

— Alyssa Hicks, 2024 Eunice Newton Foote Scholar

2025 Scholarship Winner



Kwame Donkor
Cascade Energy Scholar

Kwame Donkor is a second-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering at the University of Washington.

His research investigates the intersection of extreme weather events, grid infrastructure, and climate vulnerabilities, with a focus on quantifying power grid reliability across diverse neighborhoods in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Fundraising:

Charitable gifts from individuals, businesses, foundations, and other organizations totaled \$109,455 in 2025. This record-setting year exceeded the previous high (2023) by 16%.

Reach:

In 2025, RESF broadened scholarship eligibility to include students from Alaska, Idaho, and Montana and awarded four scholarships in these newer states. RESF also established connections with university departments in these states.

To support this expanded reach, RESF initiated new fundraising efforts, recruited additional selection committee members, and began identifying prospective board members from these regions.

Efficient work of a committed team:

As an all-volunteer organization, RESF kept operating costs exceptionally low in 2025 and directed the vast majority of donations to scholarships.

Scholarship and Process Details

A total of 30 scholarships were given in 2025:

- Five \$7,000 scholarships
- Five \$5,000 scholarships
- Seven \$3,000 scholarships
- Thirteen \$1,000 scholarships

Sixteen of the scholarships were named scholarships recognizing generous donors and distinguished honorees.

Most scholarships were open to all applicants. In alignment with donor stipulations, two scholarships were specifically offered to Native American students, and two additional scholarships were intended to promote diversity among those entering the field.

All applications were reviewed and ranked by multiple selection committee members. Committee members represent a diverse group of academics, business professionals, and researchers from the energy field. Applicants were evaluated based on academic record, accomplishments, demonstrated interest, and letters of recommendation.

Most scholarships are one-time awards, with a few exceptions:

- Undergraduate recipients may reapply as graduate students
- RESF Scholar recipients of \$1,000 awards may reapply and compete for higher-value scholarships

2025 Scholarship Winner



Michelle Katz
Daimler Scholar

Michelle Katz is a Ph.D. candidate in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Washington (UW), where she researches advanced material and manufacturing strategies to improve lithium-ion battery performance.

In her doctoral research, Michelle aims to mitigate the trade-off between energy and power seen in conventional battery electrodes by using 3D-printing techniques to fabricate newer, more complex three-dimensional (3D) electrode architectures.

Fundraising and Financial Overview

A total of \$109,455 was raised from donors in 2025, with generous support from individuals, businesses, and foundations.

Scholarships totaled \$94,000, representing more than 96% of total expenses. All other expenses—including the winners' reception, postal services, payment processing fees, registration, banking, and insurance—totaled \$3,613.

Net assets grew from \$155,504 at the start of 2025 to \$174,661 at year end. Over 88% of assets are invested conservatively in money market funds and certificates of deposit, with small holdings in mutual funds and a renewable energy stock.

RESF's financial strategy continues to emphasize:

- Maintaining low operating expenses
- Supporting steadily increasing scholarship value and volume
- Investing conservatively given the short time between receiving donations and awarding scholarships

Governance and Stewardship

RESF is guided by seven experienced and motivated board members:

- David Reingold, President
- Pearl Dixon, Secretary
- Rob Morton, Treasurer
- Bryce Yonker
- Jeff Morris
- Nancy Hirsh
- Mel Clark

RESF is further supported by ten Selection Committee members who do the hard work of reviewing and ranking scholar applications each spring:

- Alissa Bleem
- Dave Danner
- Mike Graine
- Jeff Hammarlund
- David Lockard
- Auriane Koster
- Karma Sawyer
- Tracie Tran
- Ali Trueworthy
- Carl Wamser

This group includes former and current professors, researchers, NGO and governmental leaders, and practicing professionals from the energy field.

Biographies for both board members and selection committee members are provided on our website at <https://www.resf-pnw.org/about>. They represent a strong and experienced team fully committed to the RESF mission, conducting a fair process, and being good stewards of the donations made to RESF.

Looking Ahead to 2026

The renewable energy sector faces a challenging period, making student support and encouragement more important than ever. RESF's goal remains to support and inspire more students pursuing careers in renewable energy and decarbonization by offering a growing number of scholarships of increasing value.

RESF has also seen growing interest in honoring the lifetime contributions of distinguished energy professionals through named scholarships supported by ongoing donations. The Foundation intends to continue expanding this meaningful form of recognition and gratitude.

In 2026, RESF plans to further establish its presence in Alaska, Idaho, and Montana by strengthening relationships with academic institutions, encouraging student applications, and recruiting donors, board members, and selection committee members from these states.

RESF will also host an awards reception in Portland in May or June (date and location TBD) to honor scholarship recipients. Current and past recipients, donors, board members, selection committee members, and other guests will be invited, providing valuable opportunities for celebration, connection, and networking within the energy community.