



Renewables for Artists Team*

2026 Targeted Guidance Mentoring Program

Updated May 1, 2026

Call for Art, Camp, Mutant Vehicle, and Other Projects

The Renewables for Artists Team is Looking for Projects to Mentor for Burning Man 2026

Empowering the Burning Man Community with Clean Energy: Join the RAT Movement!

The [Renewables for Artists Team \(RAT\)](#) is a passionate, all-volunteer community dedicated to lighting up Black Rock City—and beyond—without burning fossil fuels. We believe that creativity and sustainability go hand in hand, and we are here to help projects leap into renewable energy.

Whether you are a seasoned builder or just starting, RAT mentors provide friendly, hands-on guidance to help you power your projects with clean, safe, and reliable energy. Education is our focus, but we often play a hands-on role in helping both artists and camps succeed in "[Going Solar](#)". Our mission is to demystify renewable systems and make them accessible to everyone, regardless of technical background.

The RAT accepts applications from projects that plan to participate in Burning Man, Black Rock City, "Axis Mundi." The projects can range from a few blinking light strings to more complex endeavors.

RAT Mentoring

While we are not licensed electricians, our team provides educational support to help you design safer, more intelligent systems. We always recommend consulting licensed professionals to make sure your final setup meets safety standards.

RAT's Technical Advisors mentor and assist projects with:

- Electrical Safety Fundamentals
- Project Analysis and Design support
- Construction and Logistics advice
- Troubleshooting before and during the event

The RAT does not provide funding, equipment, supplies, or construction labor.

If selected, we will:

- Assign a RAT mentor to assist the project lead.
- Direct the project lead to RAT's archive of educational materials.
- Participate in group and individual planning sessions.
- Help the projects to inventory their power demands (mandatory).
- Suggest renewable energy design approaches to meet those needs.
- Possibly promote subscription in the Burning Man Projects Solar Donation Station program.
- Help the project create a budget for the system's construction costs.
- Monitor the progress and consult with the project team during the build.
- Help the project have a successful test run off the playa before deploying at Black Rock City.
- Be available on the playa to verify that everything is working as planned.
- For artists, work in cooperation with the ARTery and be available for any projects that require assistance on the playa.

PLEASE NOTE: To better assist projects once on Playa, we will ask you for your camp location in July.

Application Process

This call will remain open until just before the Black Rock City event to help as many people as possible. Depending on the number and complexity of applications we receive, we may need to limit the number of projects we can take on.

Please Complete the [Application](#)

Based on the response to this call, we will contact project leads by email to either reach a moving-forward agreement or inform them that the project is beyond the scope of available resources. A team member will be assigned, and a rough schedule of consultation calls will then be set. All assistance will be provided remotely unless the assigned RAT member is local to the project.

We look forward to hearing from you and to a sustainable experience at Black Rock City in 2026!

RAT Weekly Meetings

If you have not already done so, please join our weekly meetings to:

- Discuss your project
- Learn about renewable energy at Black Rock City.
- Interact with the RAT's Technical Advisors, who mentor and assist projects in transitioning from generators to renewable energy sources.
- Meet project leads who are passionate about renewable energy.
- Assist with RAT planning and operations at the next Burning Man Black Rock City, regionals, and special events.

RAT Meetings are held on Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Pacific Time. The first part of the meeting is dedicated to General Discussion with Projects/Public and New Public Business: [Zoom Meeting Link](#)

***Disclaimer:**

1. The Renewables for Artists Team (RAT) are not licensed electricians. The information provided herein is educational and not professional advice. Projects are encouraged to consult licensed experts to review their project's design to ensure installations will be safe.

2. The RAT is not a paid consultant or contractor. Our assistance and guidance are provided on a best-effort basis. We do not warrant any analysis, designs, construction materials, logistics, or funding of projects. The RAT is not liable for accidental injury, loss of life, damage, or loss to equipment or installations connected with projects.

References

[RAT Project Handbook](#)

The [RAT Education Page](#) Offers These Resources:

- Best Management Practices Booklet
- Equipment Recipes
- Camp Support
- Solar Power 101 - Online Burning Man Hive Course
- How To Do An Electrical Load Analysis - Online Burning Man Hive Course
- How To Do An Electrical Energy Inventory For Your Camp By Bruce Cooper
- Solar Powered System Estimator User's Guide by Doug Hanson
- Solar Powered System Estimator by Doug Hanson

- RAT Project Handbook By Doug Hanson, Updated by Scott Williams
- RAT Mentor Handbook By Doug Hanson, Updated by Scott Williams
- RoboTracker by Bob Wolff
- Burning Fuels Carbon Dioxide Emissions Calculator by Scott Williams