REUSE AS REIMAGINATION

Shown below are thirty US-based solar panels which were retired from their original use and repurposed into functional second use cases. These particular solar panels were replaced after seven years because the homeowner upgraded their array to provide power for charging a second electric vehicle. Electrical testing indicated each panel output within 5% of its original 280 watt capacity. Our team effectively repurposed these solar panels into uses that benefit the community. These projects have taken various shapes and create solar power for lighting, ventilation, and tools.

One example project considered the benefit of the shade created by solar panels. In this project, the solar panels were repurposed as components of a solar umbrella, providing shade at a community space for users to relax and enjoy the weather without worrying about sun exposure. The solar panels also charged a battery that allowed users to power electronic devices or tools while they enjoyed the shade. Users interact intuitively with the solar array because its resemblance to a familiar shape -in this case, a patio umbrella. The design and functionality of this project was inspirational in our design of the Marou Village solar array, modeled to resemble the traditional Fijian bure.







