



United Tribes Technical College is owned and operated by five Tribal Nations. Photo from UTTC.

United Tribes Technical College

Enhancing UTTC's Event Resilience Through Autonomous Energy Operation

United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) received an award from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy to develop an integrated energy system for autonomous operation at its Lewis Goodhouse Wellness Center in Bismarck, North Dakota. This project aims to enhance energy reliability and provide emergency sheltering capabilities for students and community members.

The system will leverage microgrid technologies to operate autonomously, ensuring the wellness center can provide essential services during emergency response situations. It is projected to save \$1.7 million over the life of the project, fostering resilience for the community.

Project Description:

The integrated energy system will power the Lewis Goodhouse Wellness Center, an essential Tribal building and emergency sheltering facility. The system upgrades include a microgrid control system alongside a 198-kW rooftop solar array and a 1.3-MWh battery energy storage system. The system will integrate with the existing 250-kW diesel generator to ensure comprehensive energy reliability. The project is designed to provide power for emergency sheltering functions for up to three days and will create 15 short-term jobs. In addition to energy reliability, the project will facilitate education and training within the college.

Project Overview

Awardee: United Tribes Technical College

Location: Bismarck, North Dakota

Project Title: Enhancing UTTC's Event Resilience Through Autonomous Energy Operation

DOE Funding Opportunity Number: DE-FOA-0003298

DOE Grant Number: DE-IE0000206

Projected Impacts:

- Energy Affordability: \$1,707,660 in savings over project lifetime
- Energy Addition: 7,153,650 kWh in energy generation over project lifetime
- Energy Reliability: Autonomous operation of the wellness center for up to three days, providing emergency sheltering

Project Amounts:

- DOE Office of Indian Energy: \$2,199,763
- Awardee Cost-Share: \$244,419
- Total: \$2,444,182

Start: September 2025



The Lewis Goodhouse Wellness Center serves as an emergency shelter for the campus community.

Photo from UTTC.

About United Tribes Technical College

UTTC, located in Bismarck, North Dakota, is a Tribal college operated by five Tribal Nations: Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, Spirit Lake Nation, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, the Three Affiliated Tribes (Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation) of the Fort Berthold Reservation, and the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. The college offers both two-year and four-year degrees in over 20 programs. The emergency resilience project is a collaborative effort between UTTC and Lightspring Solar LLC.

About the Office of Indian Energy

Established by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Office of Indian Energy aims to promote Indian Tribal energy development, efficiency, and use; reduce or stabilize energy costs; enhance and strengthen Tribal energy and economic infrastructure related to natural resource development and electrification; and extend electrical power and service to Indian lands and Tribal members' homes (42 U.S.C. § 7144e). The UTTC project was competitively selected under the Office of Indian Energy's funding opportunity DE-FOA-0003298 which was fully supported by annual appropriations.

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