

Alternative Fuels and Feedstocks Office NOFO, New Tribal Workforce Resources and Opportunities Webpage



Office of Indian Energy News

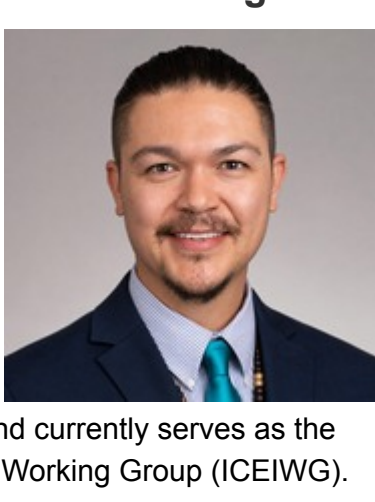
October 2, 2026

Welcome to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs (IE) monthly newsletter! In each issue, we share the latest Tribal energy news, funding, events, and opportunities.

Office News and Updates

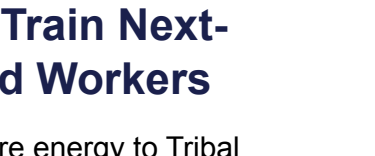
DOE's Alternative Fuels and Feedstocks Office Announces up to \$58 Million to Promote Chemical Innovation

DOE's Alternative Fuels and Feedstocks Office (AFFO) announced up to [\\$58 million in funding for chemical technologies that use domestically sourced alternative and waste feedstocks](#). The funding promotes the development and commercialization of chemical technologies that maximize the use of biomass and waste resources. Applicants must [submit concept papers](#) by October 9, 2026, at 5 p.m. ET.



Tommy Jones, Ph.D., Named IE External Affairs Manager

Tommy Jones, Ph.D., has been named IE External Affairs Manager, a critical role that will allow Jones to continue to expand the Office's external engagement and communications. Jones—an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and Naknek Native Village, as well as a Native shareholder of Bristol Bay Native Corporation of Alaska—first worked with IE in 2014 as an intern at Sandia National Laboratories. Since then, he has worked on a wide range of projects that support the Office's and DOE's engagement with Tribes and currently serves as the staff lead on the Indian Country Energy and Infrastructure Working Group (ICEIWG).



[Read more about his new role here.](#)

Updated Careers Webpage—Your One-Stop Shop for Information About DOE Programs to Train Next-Generation Tribal Energy Leaders and Workers

IE is committed to delivering affordable, reliable, and secure energy to Tribal communities by supporting tomorrow's Tribal workforce through real-world, hands-on experience. The Office partners with Tribal entities, including Alaska Native Corporations and other organizations, to offer career development and training opportunities for future energy leaders and skilled workers, such as DOE internship and fellowship programs. The recently refreshed workforce development page is a one-stop shop for information about DOE programs to train next-generation Tribal energy leaders and workers: [Visit the updated webpage here.](#)

DOE Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation Launches \$16 Million PROSPECT Planning Prize to Grow the Mining and Critical Minerals Workforce

The U.S. is entering a new era of domestic critical minerals and materials development. DOE's Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation (CMEI) recently launched a prize competition as part of DOE's \$100 million Providing Opportunities for Specialized Education in Critical Technologies (PROSPECT) initiative. The PROSPECT Planning Prize challenges U.S.-based academic institutions—including Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) with eligible mining engineering programs—to submit plans for novel programs aimed at substantially increasing the number of graduates and other credentialed professionals prepared for relevant mining and supply chain fields by the end of the 2028 calendar year. Visit the [PROSPECT Planning Prize page](#) to learn more and apply by October 5, 2026.

\$6M Tribal Energy Prize Open for New Submissions

The National Laboratory of the Rockies' (NLR) [Tribal Energy Capacity Expansion Prize](#)—designed to support the role of Tribal Nations in energy decision-making processes—recently opened for Phase 1 submissions. Intended for Federally recognized Tribal entities and multi-Tribe collaborative teams, this \$6 million, three-phase competition aims to increase resources and capabilities in sectors such as energy permitting, workforce development, and environmental compliance. Alaska Native Villages and regional and Village corporations are encouraged to apply.

To learn more about the prize and how to apply, follow the prize page on [HeroX](#). Submissions are due by December 4, 2026. For a detailed overview and opportunity to ask questions about the prize, use the following links to register to attend an informational webinar on [October 13, 2026, at 3 p.m. ET](#).

Open Funding, Technical Assistance, and Other Opportunities

Opportunity	Type	Responses Due
Technical Assistance for Tribal Energy Projects (DOE)	Technical Assistance	Accepting Applications, Ongoing
Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation (CMEI) PROSPECT Planning Prize (DOE)	Grant	October 5, 2026
Notice of Intent: Accelerating Scale-up and Pre-piloting of Emerging Chemical Technologies (DOE)	Notice of Intent / Grant	Concept papers by October 9, 2026, at 5 p.m. ET
Tribal Energy Capacity Expansion (TECE) Prize (NLR)	Prize	December 4, 2026
Energy Technology Innovation Partnership Project (ETIPP) (DOE)	Technical Assistance	November 18, 2026
High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate (HEEHR) Program for Indian Tribes (DOI)	Grant	December 11, 2026

Upcoming Events and Webinars

[How-To Guide To Navigate the Complex Landscape of Tribal Energy Projects](#)

October 15, 2026 | 3–4:30 p.m. ET/11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Alaska Daylight Time

This webinar will focus on ways Tribes have overcome critical issues by integrating flexibility, planning, and education into their DOE projects. From complex supply chain and contractor landscapes to intuitive project management structure, these Tribes have expanded their capacity to ensure successful project results.

[AISES National Conference](#)

October 15–17, 2026

The three-day conference brings together Indigenous knowledge and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) innovation with opportunities to build community and learn from others. Event programming supports the Advancing Indigenous Science and Engineering Society's (AISES) broader goal of substantially elevating the representation of Indigenous people in STEM studies and careers. Raymond RedCorn—Legislative and Tribal Affairs Specialist for DOE—will lead a panel discussion during the conference, titled “Careers Shaping the Tribal Energy Sector: From Innovation to Sovereign Impact.” [Read more here.](#)

[NCAI 83rd Annual Convention & Marketplace](#)

October 18–22, 2026

This conference is the largest and longest-running annual gathering hosted by the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). The event convenes Tribal Leaders, NCAI members, Federal partners, and others from across Indian Country to vote on critical resolutions that guide NCAI's advocacy work, strategize for the future, and strengthen Nation-to-Nation relationships. The Marketplace features booths from Native artists, vendors, and exhibitors. Office of Indian Energy Director Eric Mahroum will provide keynote remarks on Wednesday, October 21, 2026.

[Community Microgrid Information Exchange Webinar Series](#)

October 22, 2026, 1–2:30 p.m. MT

The Community Microgrid Information Exchange (C-MIX) launches its first webinar series designed to help remote and isolated communities explore how microgrids can improve energy access, reliability, and affordability. The monthly six-part series, funded by the DOE Office of Electricity, provides communities with practical tools to advance microgrid projects and strengthen local energy grids. The next webinar, “Procurement and Commissioning for Microgrids: Requirements, Testing, and Acceptance,” is October 22, 2026. The series continues through January 21, 2027.

[2026 Alaska Rural Energy Conference](#)

October 27–29, 2026

The biennial Alaska Rural Energy Conference brings together community leaders, policymakers, industry partners, and other energy stakeholders to discuss the unique energy challenges and opportunities in rural communities. The conference allows attendees to learn about successful energy projects, explore strategies to strengthen energy utility performance, identify and understand funding opportunities, and connect with colleagues and other experts from across Alaska. Office of Indian Energy Director Mahroum will provide keynote remarks on Tuesday, October 27, 2026.

Recent Webinar Materials

[Energy Efficiency Measures on Tribal Facilities](#) (September 10, 2026)

View recordings and presentation materials from [past webinars](#).

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Last week, Office of Indian Energy Director Eric Mahroum and DOE Tribal Affairs Specialist Tommy Jones met with Laguna Pueblo Governor Harry A. Antonio Jr. and members of the Pueblo Laguna government to learn about the intersection of legacy uranium mining issues and future energy development, workforce opportunities, and Tribal priorities. They also discussed leveraging public-private partnerships—one of Director Mahroum's priorities.

The Pueblo also discussed how they are exploring public-private partnerships to achieve their cleanup and critical mineral recovery goals. Leveraging public-private partnerships is one of Director Mahroum's priorities.



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