Mississippi Choctaw Overview

- Federal Recognition in 1945
- 10,500 enrolled members
- 35,000 acres of Trust Land
- 8 Communities in East Central Mississippi
- Democratically-elected Government
Topics

1. Why Mississippi Choctaw decided to do a Strategic Energy Plan
2. Our Timeline
3. What data we gathered in advance
4. How we assembled our "Stakeholders" group
5. How we structured our 2 day session
6. Outline of our Strategic Energy Plan
7. Tips for Success
Why we did a *Strategic Energy Plan*

- Missed opportunities
- Focus our efforts
- Streamline development process
Our Timeline

September 22: Attended National Tribal Energy Summit D.C.

October 12: Contacted Liz Doris - NREL

November: Gathered energy data

Dec. 1-2: Two day planning session at Choctaw

Dec. 3: Two-page plan summary received from NREL

Jan. 5: Received 1st draft of Strategic Energy Plan (20 pages)

Jan. 15: Tribal Council adopted Strategic Energy Plan
Data Gathered in Advance

- **Electrical usage**: kWh usage for 12 months (major loads) w/ sample bills
- **Electrical contracts**: copies of electrical contracts (majors)
- **Propane**: gallons purchased and price paid for 12 months
- **Energy audits**: copies of all recent energy audits
- **Tribal housing**: Map of housing units with quantity
- **Fleet**: Tribal vehicle fleet list and vehicle fuel type
- **Natural gas**: financial analysis that had been done related to converting from LP gas to Natural Gas

Tip: We shared this info using Dropbox
Stakeholder Participants

- **Coordinator (1):** Economic Development Director
- **Core Team (6):** Chief of Staff, Development Director, Economic Development Director, Public Works Director, Choctaw Electrical General Manager, Housing Development Coordinator
- **Elected Officials (18):** Tribal Chief and Tribal Council
- **Key Stakeholders (30):** Housing, Schools, Casinos, Natural Resource, Hospital, Environmental, Tribal Administration, Forestry, Finance, Legal, Baker-Tilly (energy development consultants)
  - Large energy users
  - Anyone that would need to be involved in a development project

Tip: everyone was invited to attend by a written letter from Tribal Chief
Meeting Structure

- Day 1 - All day meeting with all Key Stakeholders Group + Core Team
  - Welcome and Introductions by Tribal Chief

- Day 2 -
  - **Morning:** Tribal Council + Core Team
  - **Afternoon:** Core Team
Our Strategic Energy Plan

Vision Statement: Maximize economic benefits and quality of life for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians through responsible, efficient, and strategic energy development and use

1. **Energy Efficiency**: audits, workforce training, replacement plan, new building codes
2. **Transit Authority**: replacement plan, natural gas conversion study
3. **Renewable Energy**: select pilot project
4. **Heating**: explore natural gas service expansion
5. **Operations**: develop energy usage database, hire Energy Manager
6. **Other**: review existing & proposed new energy contracts
Tips for Success

- Select a Senior-Level Coordinator
- Select a Core Team that has the Knowledge and Enthusiasm
- Involve elected officials
- Involve key stakeholders that represent all important components
- Create a sense of urgency
- Get your plan formally adopted by the Tribe
Thank you!

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
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