

Addressing Regulatory Barriers to Tribal Solar Deployment

About Us



MJ Anderson



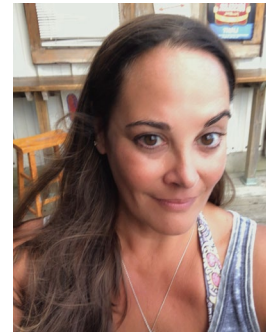
Scott Belding



Laura Beshilas



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Jake Glavin



David Hurlbut



Michael Ingram



Gary Lewis



Reuben Martinez



Sherry Stout



Brandy Toft



Mike Troge



Karin Wadsack



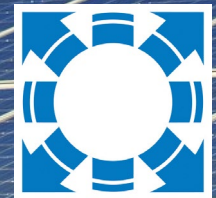
Liz Weber



Bruno Zagar

Q1 Who is in the room?

Q2 Where is everyone from?





Project Overview

Challenges to Tribal Solar Deployment

- **FOUNDATION:** Historically weak relationships between Tribal, Regulatory, Utility, Other stakeholders
- **SCOPE:** Policy barriers that prevent otherwise feasible solar projects from being deployed
- **SCALE:** 574 Federally recognized Tribes; spanning 528,000 km²; over 46 states; served by 531 electric utilities

Project Goals and Success

- **GOALS:** Identify key policy barriers and find replicable solutions; improve relationships among stakeholder groups

SUCCESS MEANS: Increased understanding of policy solutions and Tribal issues; documented and replicable policy solutions; and stronger relationships to keep working together beyond this project.

Project Steps & Outcomes

Photo by Givey Kochanowski, NREL 36554



Questionnaires

At the beginning, middle, and end of project to assess overall impacts



Working Group

Ongoing stakeholder participation (online, phone, in person)



Listening Sessions

Specific topics to gather information throughout project



Guidebooks & Training Materials

Case studies, issue briefs, slide decks, fact sheets, etc.



Lasting Commitment

MTERA will host and use guidebooks after project ends... you're encouraged to also!

Tribal Solar Initiative Events and Site Traffic

PowerPoint Slide Show - [July 2021 Listening Sessions - barriers_concise]

3 Utility-Scale Project Barriers

Distribution Utilities Lack Wheeling Tariffs


When a Tribe is served by a distribution utility, the utility has no requirement to have a transmission-use-sales ("wheeling") rate in place. Thus, when the Tribe might want to 'wheel' electricity through the utility, either to another facility or out to the larger transmission bulk power system to participate in the market, there is no established mechanism for this function, and the utility does not have to develop one.

Examples:
 Hualapai Tribe
 Southern Ute Indian Tribe

Property, Sales Taxation Jurisdiction Questions Cause "Double Taxation"

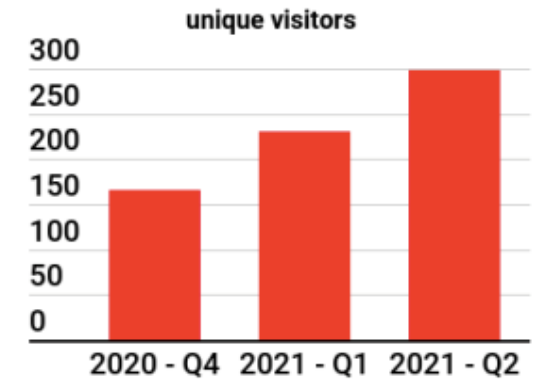
- Tribes need to be able to recover tax revenue in order to fund public services such as road maintenance and public safety, all of which benefit utility-scale renewable energy project owners. Allowing the County/State to tax the project as well results in double taxation.
- The BIA issued 25 CFR § 162.017 and § 169.11 preventing states from imposing property taxes on renewable energy projects on Tribal land. Actively in court.

Examples:
 State of Arizona Department of Revenue
 Energy projects on Tribal land



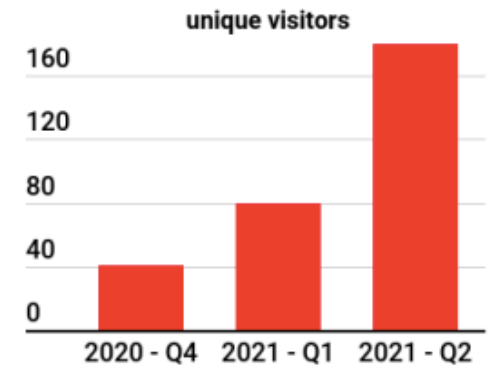
Karin Wadsack
Kaitlyn Libby
Brian Cole
Jennifer J. Cady - ML

Tribal Solar Initiative Homepage



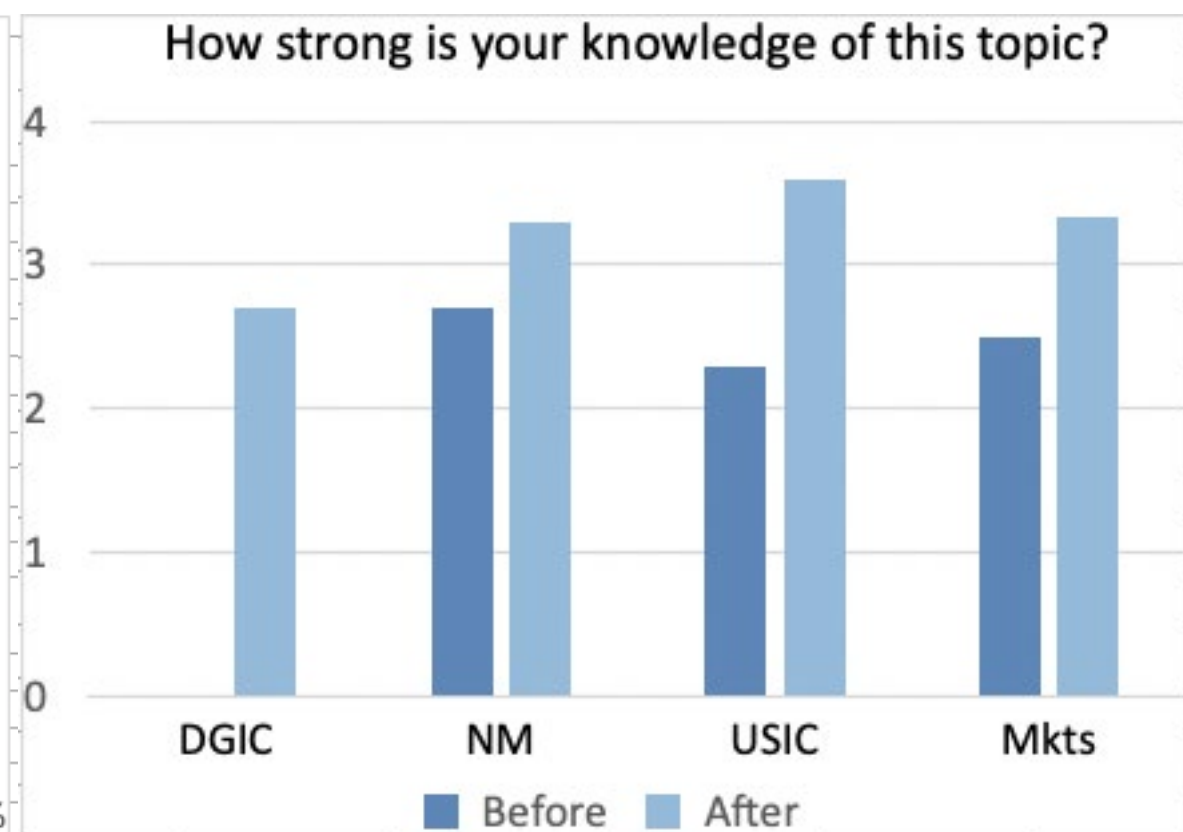
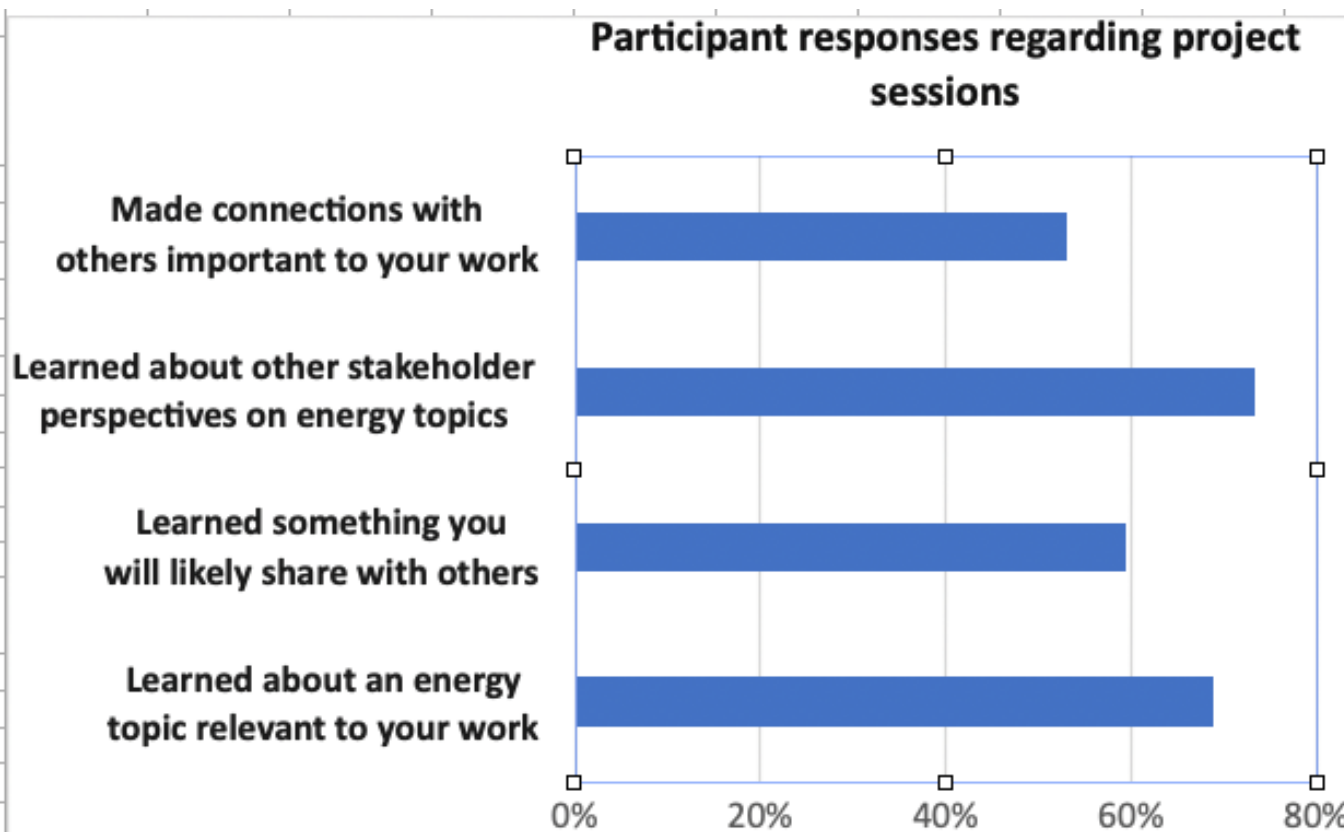
We had 298 visitors in Q2 2021, up 30% from Q1 2021

Tribal Solar Initiative Forum



We had 180 visitors in Q1 2021, up 125% from Q4 2020

Learning and Engagement





**Non-Project-Specific
Barriers**

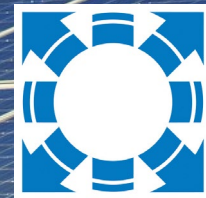
**Distributed and
Community-Scale Barriers**

**Utility-Scale Project
Barriers**

**Barriers Affecting All
Project Scales**

Q3 Are you currently, have you in the past, or do you plan to work on a solar projects on Tribal land?

Q4 What is your level of expertise in energy policy relevant to solar development?





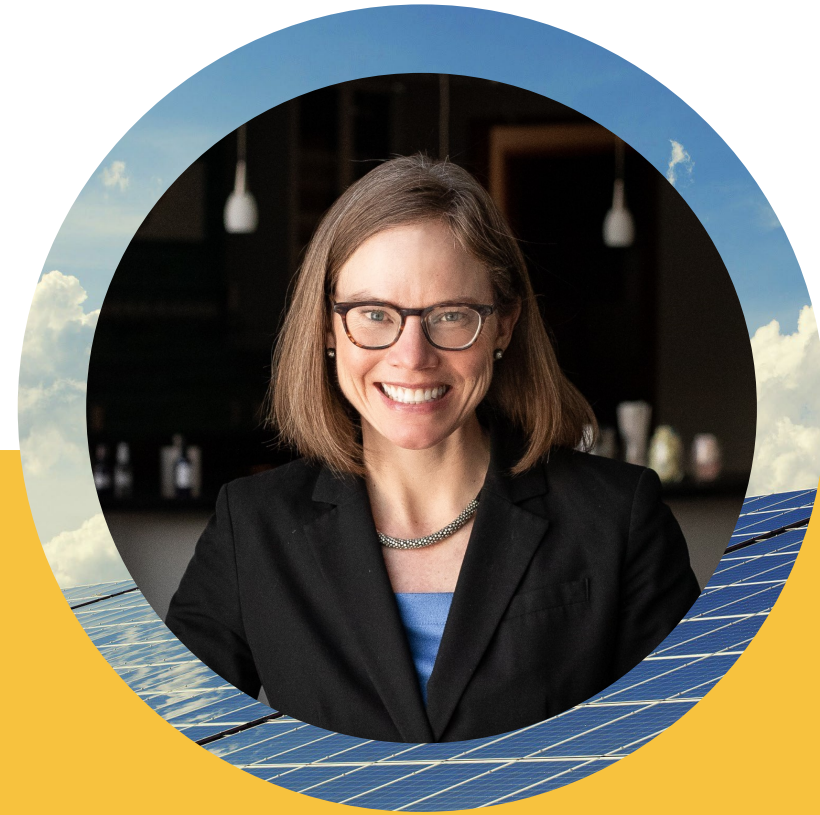
Tyler Huebner

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Q5 Was this session useful?

Q6 What is your level of expertise in energy policy relevant to solar development after this session?

